



SCCPS students play at cool events all around Cincinnati!

Above: At the Fountain Square Play-In, Spring 2016.

Below: At the Cincinnati Reds pregame, May 21, 2017.



Left: SCCPS students perform at the final CPS School Board of Education meeting of the 2016-2017 school year. They were invited to perform to honor outgoing superintendent Mary Ronan for her years of service.

SCCPS Newsletter

Fall 2017



The Suzuki Collaborative of Cincinnati Public Schools (SCCPS) welcomes all CPS families to the new 2017-2018 school year – we hope everyone had a great summer!

My name is Emily Houh and I'm a parent member of the SCCPS Board. More importantly, I'm a proud SCCPS parent of two violin players – my 6th grader has been playing since 1st grade and my 3rd grader since kindergarten. I myself was also a Suzuki kid (violin) who can attest that getting my start in Suzuki led to incredibly valuable experiences, both arts-related and otherwise. Now that I have experience as *both* a Suzuki student *and* parent, I'm writing to encourage new and returning CPS families to consider enrolling your students in the Suzuki program through the SCCPS.

It's well-established that music education is an invaluable part of a rigorous and well-rounded academic program. As Plato once said: "I would teach children *music*, physics, and philosophy; but *most importantly music*, for the patterns in music and all the arts are the *keys to learning*." (emphasis added.) Ask any adult who grew up learning to sing or play an instrument and they'll confirm what Plato said, even if they didn't appreciate their music education at the time. In fact, studies have shown that music education "improves recall and retention of verbal information, advances math achievement, [and] boosts reading and English language arts skills." (See www.nammfoundation.org.) But the best thing about music education is that it's fun and brings joy and love to all our lives.

The SCCPS program enhances existing music education by giving students opportunities to get "private lesson" level instruction in the Suzuki Method from our amazing Suzuki teachers. But, you might ask, what's so special about the Suzuki Method? Founded more than 50 years ago by Japanese violinist [Shinichi Suzuki](#), who believed that "every child can learn," the [Suzuki Method](#) focuses on and integrates parent involvement (one parent or guardian must attend every private lesson), loving encouragement, listening and repetition, learning with other children, and a "graded repertoire" designed to teach technique in the context of music (rather than through technical exercises). SCCPS offers instruction in cello, flute, viola, and violin. All of our teachers are Suzuki Registered with many years of experience in teaching, as well as in performance, music therapy, and arts administration.

What *really* makes SCCPS special, however, is our students and families. We all work hard but have a great time, and we get to participate in some really unique and fun events. In addition to recitals and concerts, SCCPS students play a Reds pregame program *every* spring and are also regularly invited to perform at special events, such as last spring's final CPS Board of Education Meeting honoring outgoing superintendent Mary Ronan and the downtown play-in at Fountain Square in spring 2016.

INFO & REMINDERS FOR RETURNING FAMILIES

Group Lesson Schedules for 2017-2018

String Groups / Following **Saturdays** between 9-11:15am at [John P. Parker Elementary](#):

Sept 30 • Oct 14 & 28 • Nov 18 • Dec 9 • Jan 6 & 20 • Feb 10 & 24 • Mar 3 & 17 • Apr 7 & 28 • May 5

Flute Groups / Following **Fridays** between 5-8pm at [North Avondale Montessori](#), except as otherwise noted:

Sept 8 & 22 • Sept 30, Sat. at gam at JP Parker before Play-In • Oct 20 & 27 • Nov 3 & 17 • Dec 1 • Jan 19 & 26 • Feb 9 • Feb 23 at [Church of the Redeemer in Hyde Park](#) • Mar 2 • Apr 6 & 27 • May 11 at JP Parker before Play-In

Continuing World's Finest Fundraiser

We still have LOTS of candy bars to sell. If you're interested in selling more candy to help **offset tuition fees** (all profits *after the first 2 boxes* will be credited to your child(ren)'s fees), email Ms. Nadine at ms.nadinecello@gmail.com.

Questions about registration?

Contact SCCPS Administrator Vicki Freeman at vfrnmfm@aol.com.

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So, how much, you may now be wondering, does enrolling your student in the SCCPS program cost? And what types of (non-financial) commitments are involved? Tuition rates and fees appear in the table below and cover *private lessons, group lessons, performances, and program costs*. (Please note that one parent/guardian *must* attend both private and group lessons.)

Tuition payment category	Family tuition per school year	Family tuition per semester
Non-scholarship	\$1,000 (*Sibling discount – \$800 per year)	\$500
Scholarship – reduced lunch	\$250	\$125
Scholarship – free lunch	\$100	\$50

We know and appreciate that the fees might strain many family budgets and wish that we could do better. But in the face of CPS budget cuts over the years and the ever-shifting nature of grant-based support for music education in public schools, these rates have been set accordingly to cover basic instructional and operating costs (comparable private programs can cost over 35% more than SCCPS tuition). Last spring, many SCCPS families participated for the first time in candy bar fundraisers to help defray program costs (and there's still plenty of candy to sell). Because we want to ensure the continuation of our program, we're continuing to investigate how we can engage in better and more effective *voluntary* fundraising – our wonderful SCCPS kids are worth it!

If you've gotten through this entire letter and want to learn more, please check out the SCCPS website [here](#). If you're interested in enrolling your student(s) and don't have the yellow SCCPS-interest card that was included with your students' fall school materials, a Parent Letter from SCCPS Executive Director, Ms. Nadine Monchecourt, telling you how to enroll your student(s) appears below. (Note: If you've already responded to the yellow card, you're all set and can ignore the letter.)

Thank you and here's to a fabulous fall!

Best, Emily Houh - on behalf of the SCCPS Board

SCCPS Board

Tony Barkley
Michele Betres
John Caliguri
Jessica Cox
Cecelia Goist

Emily Houh
Shannon Schaffer
Brian Seikman
Nadine Monchecourt,
Executive Director

SCCPS Faculty

Sarah Gannon / violin
Cecelia Goist / violin & viola
Nadine Monchecourt / cello
Laurie Fairlie Weil / flute

Parent Letter from Ms. Nadine Monchecourt, SCCPS Executive Director

Dear Parent,

Thank you for your interest in our Suzuki Program. Enrolling your child into a Suzuki program can bring about a lifelong learning adventure for you and your family with many, many benefits.

To help understand the commitment involved, we ask that you gather as much information as possible before registering. Please go to our website at www.suzukicps.org and view the video on the homepage, "**Suzuki Cooperative in Action**," to learn about Dr. Suzuki's philosophy and to see his philosophy in action. Next, go to the "**Parent Resources**" tab and watch two mini lessons to see examples of a typical private **30-minute Suzuki lesson**, which the **parent has to attend**. The parent also commits to **practicing daily** with the child and **playing and listening to the CD daily** so that they will hear the music to be learned on the chosen instrument. If these two activities—practicing and listening—become a part of your family's daily life, the Suzuki lessons will be very worthwhile. If you decide that you can make the commitment, email the appropriate teacher as indicated below for available times, rental information, and registration information:

For cello, please email Ms. Nadine at ms.nadinecello@gmail.com.

For flute, please email Ms. Laurie at laurie.fairweil@gmail.com.

For violin & viola at College Hill Fundamental Academy, Kilgour, Rothenberg, and Sands Montessori, please email Ms. Cece at cgoist@yahoo.com.

For violin at Parker Woods, JP Parker, Dater Montessori, and North Avondale Montessori, please email Ms. Sarah at sarahegannon@aol.com.

Thank You, Ms. Nadine Monchecourt