

# Parent Handbook

2020 - 2021

Welcome to the Suzuki Collaborative of Cincinnati Public Schools. You will find in this handbook an explanation of the workings of the cooperative. We look forward to a wonderful Suzuki journey with your family!

Sincerely,  
Suzuki Collaborative of CPS  
P.O. Box 1284  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45201-1284  
[www.suzukicps.org](http://www.suzukicps.org)

## Our Mission

The mission of Suzuki Collaborative of Cincinnati Public Schools is to foster confidence, initiative, independence, and the love of music in children, by embracing the Shinichi Suzuki philosophy of education while reflecting the diversity of our schools.

## Teachers

### **Laurie Fairlie Weil**

Suzuki Flute

Education: B.M. in Music Therapy, Ohio University Scholarship for Applied Flute, post graduation study with Jack Wellbaum; Piccolo Instructor, University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music (UC - CCM)

SAA training 1- 9 plus 11

### **Sarah E. Gannon**

Suzuki Violin

Education: M.A. Violin Performance, Queens College, Joint Program with Mannes College of Music

SAA training 1 -3

**Cecelia Goist**

Suzuki Violin and Viola

Education: B.M. in Viola performance Central Michigan University - Post graduate studies in Viola Performance, UC - CCM

SAA Training 1-8 and viola books 1-4

**Nadine Monchecourt**

Executive Director - Suzuki Cello

Education: M.A. in Arts Administration, B.M. Cello Performance, UC -CCM

Fellowships: Arts Administration Fellowship with the National Endowment for the Arts, Cello Orchestral Fellowship with the National Orchestral Association

SAA Training: 1A, 1B, 2, 3, 4, and 5

Cello Teachers: Lee Fiser, Don Reinfeld, Marjorie Hunsberger, and Alan Harris

## **SCCPS Collaborative**

The Suzuki Collaborative of Cincinnati Public Schools (SCCPS) is a non-profit organization that administers the Cincinnati Public Schools' Suzuki program within Cincinnati Public Schools, K-6.

The SCCPS Organization is comprised of an executive director, volunteer members and faculty representatives. Board representatives are elected from a slate of nominated candidates presented at the annual meeting held each spring.

The operating expenses of the program are funded primarily by Cincinnati Public Schools. Funding from CPS covers approximately 2/3 of operating expenses, with parent tuition and fundraising making up the balance. All of these funding sources are important and necessary in order to meet the financial needs of the organization.

The SCCPS organization administers all aspects of the program including hiring teachers, disbursing payroll, fundraising, grant writing, scholarship distribution, registration processing, the payment of accompanists and all other operating expenses.

## **Fundraisers**

All parents are expected to participate in Suzuki fundraisers. The Board may seek out and present all fundraising opportunities for participation.

## Registration and Fees

New families, who are interested in enrollment, should complete the Interest Survey Form. Interested families will be contacted by a Suzuki teacher. Every new family observes lessons and should understand program expectations prior to enrollment.

Families returning to the program will be automatically emailed registration materials the summer before the upcoming school year.

Tuition is charged per child annually. **Financial assistance scholarships are available for families who qualify.** Fees must be paid by the required due dates in order to participate in the program. Monthly payment plans are available. In such circumstances where a family is unable to submit full payment by published dates, they must contact the administrator, Mrs. Vicki Freeman, prior to these dates and set up a payment schedule, agreed upon by both parties.

Mrs. Vicki Freeman's email address [vfrnfm@aol.com](mailto:vfrnfm@aol.com).

Fees are non-refundable.

Checks or money orders are to be made payable to and mailed to:

Suzuki Cooperative of CPS

P.O. Box 1284, Cincinnati, Ohio 45201-1284.

If a check is returned, a fee of \$35 will be charged in order to cover the bank costs.

You may pay via Venmo, or online at [www.suzukicps.org](http://www.suzukicps.org).

## PROGRAM OFFERINGS

### SCCPS Concerts

Student participation in all SCCPS events is at the discretion of the Suzuki teacher(s).

### Individual Lessons

A parent or guardian is required to attend all individual lessons. Due to the COVID virus, all lessons will be online. It is important that parents arrive promptly to lessons with the materials required by the Suzuki teacher. 30 min lesson are offered by our Suzuki teachers. At the discretion of the teacher, 45 or 60 minute private lessons may be scheduled for an additional fee. Teachers may schedule parent/teacher conferences during lesson times throughout the school year. Lesson observations and parent orientation meetings are included in the number of lessons new students receive. New parents/guardians are to observe a minimum of 2 lessons during the school year.

## **Make-up Lessons**

Make-up lessons are not available for cancellations by the family. If, for any reason, a lesson must be missed, please try to switch times with another family. Notify your teacher ahead of time if you are unable to attend the lesson or if you exchange times with another family. If you or your child is sick, please cancel your lesson. Teachers do not make up "snow days".

## **Group Lessons**

In addition to private lessons, the teacher will schedule either weekly half-hour or bi-weekly (twice a month) 45 minute group lessons as the school calendar allows. Group lessons are an important part of the Suzuki method and should not be considered optional. If group lessons are held outside of school hours, a parent is expected to attend, unless other arrangements have been made with the teacher.

Participation in group classes/events is dependent on consistent group lesson attendance and positive class behavior.

## **Solo Recitals**

Students will have the opportunity to perform in a solo recital every school year. The recital is a valuable and special time for the child, their family and friends to share in their accomplishments. Children should dress nicely for these special events. A reception follows each program, with refreshments provided by the parents.

## **Recognition Recitals**

Recognition recitals are held annually. These are special recitals celebrating the completion of a book or the mastering of the "Twinkles." Students, with the Suzuki parent's guidance, are expected to make a polished audio or video recording of the entire volume and submit it to their teacher for review at least one month prior to the recital date. At the recital, each child completing a book performs one solo piece and the group recognition selection. Children graduating from the Twinkles will perform as a group. Please dress nicely for this special event.

## **Play-Ins**

Play-Ins are informal performances of the Suzuki repertoire in a large group setting. An annual play-in with the entire SCCPS membership takes place in the fall. Casual dress is appropriate – no uniforms. Non-performing children must sit with their parents.

## **Community Concerts**

Concerts and special programs are performed throughout the year. SCCPS students have performed in nursing homes, libraries, on Fountain Square, at Reds' games, Cyclones games and many other venues. These concerts provide the students the opportunity to perform in public and share their music with others. Teachers will give families instructions regarding repertoire, dress (usually in uniform), time and place of the performance.

## **Concert Behavior & Etiquette**

During performances, children are learning good concert etiquette as well as performing skills. Thank you for turning off electronic devices, refraining from talking and for modeling good attention to the performers. Please do not use flash photography during concerts. If an attending sibling is disruptive, please take them out of the room. Please monitor your children at all times before, during, and after performances. Suzuki parents/guardians are expected to demonstrate respectful behavior at all events.

## **Uniforms and Proper Attire**

The SCCPS uniform consists of a red polo shirt, black pants or skirt (knee-length or longer), black socks or black hose (white socks or white hose are acceptable (with skirts) Shirts or blouses should be tucked into the skirt or pants. Please note that blue jeans, t-shirts and sneakers should not be worn for concerts. Please follow your teacher's instructions on the proper attire for each performance.

## **Questions and Concerns**

Questions and concerns related to your family's Suzuki experience should be directed to your Suzuki teacher. Please communicate any concerns to your Suzuki teacher outside of your scheduled lesson time.

Questions regarding tuition payments:

SCCPS Administrator  
Vicki Freeman P.O. Box 1284  
Cincinnati Ohio 45201-1284  
vfrmnm@aol.com

513-910-0578