



**Parent Handbook**  
2017 - 2018

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

**Suzuki Collaborative of  
CPS**  
P.O. Box 1284  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45201-1284  
<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.

## **About your Teachers**

### Laurie Fairlie Weil

Suzuki Flute Teacher

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 Teacher

Education: M.A. Violin Performance, Queens College, Joint Program  
with Mannes College of Music, New York, N.Y.  
Studied with William Kroll at Mannes College of Music.  
SAA Training 1-3

### Cecelia Goist

Suzuki Violin and Viola Teacher

Education: B.M. in Viola performance Central Michigan University  
Post graduate studies in viola performance, UC - CCM with Peter  
Kamnitzer and Raymond Stilwell

SAA Training 1-6 and viola books 1-4 with Kay Collier McLaughlin,  
Margery Aber, Alice Joy Lewis, Linda Stieg, Roger Stieg, Paul  
Landefeld, Doris Preucil, William Preucil, Carrie Reuning-Hummel,  
and Carol Smith

### Nadine Monchecourt Executive Director

Suzuki Cello Teacher

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

Suzuki Teachers include Jean Dexter, Rick Mooney, Carol Tarr, and  
Catherine Walker

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

## **About the Collaborative**

The Suzuki Collaborative of Cincinnati Public Schools (SCCPS) is a non-profit organization within the Cincinnati Public Schools designed to implement the music education and life philosophy of Shinichi Suzuki. The Suzuki Collaborative Board of Trustees administers a Suzuki trained faculty program and a Suzuki faculty-guided program at College Hill Fundamental Academy, Dater Montessori, JP Parker, Kilgour, North Avondale Montessori, Parker Woods Montessori, Rothenberg Preparatory Academy, Sands Montessori Schools and Woodford Paideia Academy.

The SCCPS Board of Trustees 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.

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

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.

## **Fundraisers**

Because all operating expenses are not covered by CPS, 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, which will be distributed near the beginning of the school year. Interested families will be contacted by a Suzuki teacher. Every new family observes lessons and should understand program expectations prior to enrollment. Registration materials may be obtained from the Suzuki teachers and are also available on the website.

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

Tuition is charged per child annually and billed in two installments. 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 is [vfrmnmf@aol.com](mailto:vfrmnmf@aol.com). Fees are nonrefundable.

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. PayPal is available at [www.suzukicps.org](http://www.suzukicps.org).

All Suzuki families are on scholarship. Additional financial assistance scholarships are available for families who qualify at the 185% rate, or below, of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

## **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. It is important that parents arrive promptly to lessons with the materials required by the Suzuki teacher. Teachers will schedule 30 lesson weeks per school year. These lessons include parent education and observations.

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 education 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.

At the discretion of the teacher, the Suzuki teacher may initiate discussion for independent study when appropriate.

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 group lessons. Group lessons are an important part of the Suzuki method and should not be considered optional.

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

### **Orchestra**

Playing in an orchestra or a smaller chamber music group allows students to practice their note-reading skills and introduces them to an additional type of ensemble experience.

Participation in these groups is by invitation and permission of their Suzuki private lesson teacher and by invitation of the Suzuki orchestra teacher and is based on the playing skill level and the note-reading skill level of the student. If there are different levels of orchestra offered, the student's Suzuki teacher and the orchestra teacher will determine student placement.

Rehearsal attendance must be consistent for the student to participate in the orchestra/chamber music classes or concerts. Students participating in the orchestra/chamber class must commit and participate in the school day performances and the after school time concerts/events. Continued participation in the class is also dependent on 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. There is an annual play-in with the entire SCCPS membership. 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 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 cell phones, 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 requiring uniforms. Please follow your teacher's instructions on the proper attire for each performance.

### **Addressing 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 lessons time.

**Questions about tuition and payments *only***

Questions regarding tuition payments should be directed to the SCCPS Administrator, Vicki Freeman, at [vfrmnmf@aol.com](mailto:vfrmnmf@aol.com) or 513-910-0578 or write to Vicki at: P.O. Box 1284, Cincinnati Ohio 45201-1284.