



Parent Handbook
2022 - 2023

Hello,

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.

Our 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: Units 1 - 3

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, Marjorie Hunsberger, and Alan Harris, Don Reinfeld, Suzuki Training: Jeane Dexter, Rick Money, and Carol Tarr

Christine Woodbury

Suzuki Violin and Viola

Education: Doctorate in Viola Performance, M.A. in Viola Performance, UC - CCM, B.A. in Music, Smith College

SAA Training: ECC, Violin Units 1- 7, 9-10, Viola Units 4, 5, & 7, Overview of Viola Book 1 -3

Teachers: Dr. Catharine Carroll Lees, Masao Kawasaki, William Preucil, Anne Montzka Smelser, Sarah Montzka, Beri Arnold, and Joanne Melvin

About the Collaborative

The Suzuki Collaborative of Cincinnati Public Schools (SCCPS) is a non-profit organization that administers the Cincinnati Public Schools' Suzuki program within designated Cincinnati Public Schools. The Suzuki Collaborative currently administers a Suzuki trained faculty program and a Suzuki faculty-guided program at many CPS elementary schools.

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.

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, workshop organization, provision of uniforms, registration processing, the payment of accompanists and all other operating expenses.

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.

Registration and Fees

New families, who are interested in enrollment, should complete the Interest Survey Form sent home in their child's backpack 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 emailed registration materials the summer before the upcoming school year.

Tuition is charged per child annually and payment plans are available. Fees must be paid by the required due dates in order to participate in the program. 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 vfrmfm@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. Venmo Suzuki Collaborative to make a payment or use PayPal at our website.

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 makes themselves available for 30 lessons per school year.

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.

At the discretion of the teacher and on a rare occasion, 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, teachers will schedule group lessons as the school calendar allows. Group lessons are an important part of the Suzuki method and should not be considered optional.

For group lessons, a parent is expected to attend, unless other arrangements have been made with the teacher. Parents need to notify your Suzuki teacher in advance if they need to miss a group or private lesson.

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

For a student to be in SCCPS group lessons, they need to be studying with an SCCPS teacher in an SCCPS school or privately with an SCCPS teacher.

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 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, and 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 keep the vests clean and presentable. Please follow your teacher's instructions on the proper attire for each performance.

Questions about tuition and payments

Questions regarding tuition payments/invoices should be directed to the SCCPS Administrator, Vicki Freeman, at vfrmnm@aol.com or 513-910-0578 or write to Vicki at: P.O. Box 1284, Cincinnati Ohio 45201-1284.