



2018-2019 Parents' Guide

Calendar Lessons and Classes run from September 4th-May 22nd

August:

Saturday, August 25th, 7:30pm – Parent Orientation Meeting – Children's Center

September:

Tuesday, September 4th – Lessons and Classes Begin

Tuesday, September 4th – Play In and Cookie Party (instead of regular Tuesday groups) – Children's Center

Violin Play-In 4:30-5:15pm, Viola/Cello Play-In 5:15-6:00pm, Flute Play-In, Chapel 5:30-6:15pm

(Pre-twinkle violin and cello classes and Chamber will meet as usual this week.)

Monday, September 10th – 11:00am – Suzuki Early Childhood Education Class (SECE) Begins

Saturday, September 15th, 3:00pm – Back to School Solo Recital - Chapel

October:

Tuesday, October 30th, 5:00pm – Spooky Suzuki Group Recital – Sanctuary

(There will be no regularly scheduled group classes or chamber orchestra this week due to the recital.)

Tuesday, October 30th – No lessons or classes due to Spooky Suzuki

Wednesday, October 31st – Halloween, No lessons or classes due to Halloween

November:

Tuesday, November 13th, 5:00pm – KCSA Faculty Recital – Chapel

(There will be no regularly scheduled group classes or chamber orchestra this week due to the recital.)

Sunday, November 18th thru Sunday, November 25th – Thanksgiving Break, No lessons or classes

December:

Tuesday, December 4th 5:00-6:00 pm – Winter Group Concert Dress Rehearsal - Sanctuary

(There will be no regularly scheduled group classes or chamber orchestra this week due to the dress rehearsal.)

Saturday, December 8th, 10:00am – Winter Group Concert - Sanctuary

(There will be no regularly scheduled group classes or chamber orchestra the week following the group concert.)

Saturday, December 8th – No Regularly Scheduled Private Lessons.

Sunday, December 16th thru Friday, January 4th – Winter Break, No lessons or classes

(continued)

Calendar, Continued

January:

Saturday, January 5th – Lessons and Classes Resume

Tuesday, January 15th – New Year's Play In (instead of regular Tuesday groups) – Children's Center

Violin Play-In 4:30-5:15pm, Viola/Cello Play-In 5:15-6:00pm, Flute Group Class, Chapel 5:30-6:15pm

(Pre-twinkle violin and cello classes and Chamber will meet as usual this week.)

February:

Saturday, February 9th at 3:00pm – Valentine's Solo Recital - Chapel

March:

Sunday, March 3rd at 2:00pm – March Solo Recital – Chapel

Sunday, March 10th thru Sunday, March 17th – Spring Break. No lessons or classes.

April:

Saturday, April 27th at 3:00pm – April Solo Recital - Chapel

May:

Tuesday, May 14th 5:00-6:00pm, Spring Group Concert Dress Rehearsal - Sanctuary

(There will be no regularly scheduled group classes or chamber orchestra this week.)

Saturday, May 18th, 4:00pm, Spring Group Concert and End of Year Party - Sanctuary

(There will be no regularly scheduled group classes or chamber orchestra in the week following the concert.)

Monday, May 20th, 11:00am, Last Suzuki Early Childhood Education Class (SECE) of the year.

Wednesday, May 22nd – Last day of lessons and classes.

Lesson and Group Schedule by Day of the Week 2018-2019:

Mondays: 9/10, 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5, 11/12, 11/26, 12/3, 12/10, 1/7, 1/14, 1/21, 1/28, 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25, 3/4, 3/18, 3/25, 4/1, 4/8, 4/15, 4/22, 4/29, 5/6, 5/13, 5/20

Tuesdays: 9/4, 9/11, 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23, 11/6, 11/13, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 1/8, 1/15, 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14, 5/21

Wednesdays: 9/5, 9/12, 9/19, 9/26, 10/3, 10/10, 10/17, 10/24, 11/7, 11/14, 11/28, 12/5, 12/12, 1/9, 1/16, 1/23, 1/30, 2/6, 2/13, 2/20, 2/27, 3/6, 3/20, 3/27, 4/3, 4/10, 4/17, 4/24, 5/1, 5/8, 5/15, 5/22

Thursdays: 9/6, 9/13, 9/20, 9/27, 10/4, 10/11, 10/18, 10/25, 11/1, 11/8, 11/15, 11/29, 12/6, 12/13, 1/10, 1/17, 1/24, 1/31, 2/7, 2/14, 2/21, 2/28, 3/7, 3/21, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11, 4/18, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9, 5/16

Fridays: 9/7, 9/14, 9/21, 9/28, 10/5, 10/12, 10/19, 10/26, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/30, 12/7, 12/14, 1/11, 1/18, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22, 3/1, 3/8, 3/22, 3/29, 4/5, 4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 5/3, 5/10, 5/17

Saturdays: 9/8, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29, 10/6, 10/13, 10/20, 10/27, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17, 12/1, 12/15, 1/5, 1/12, 1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23, 3/2, 3/9, 3/23, 3/30, 4/6, 4/13, 4/20, 4/27, 5/4, 5/11, 5/18

Holidays:

Tuesday, October 30th and Wednesday, October 31st - Halloween/Spooky Suzuki

Sunday, November 18th thru Sunday, November 25th - Thanksgiving Break

Saturday, December 8th No lessons due to the Winter Group Concert that morning

Sunday, December 16th thru Friday, January 4th - Winter Break – (Lessons resume Saturday, Jan. 5th)

Sunday, March 10th thru Sunday, March 17th - Spring Break

Lesson Tuition (For all instruments)

All tuition options for the academic year include your child's weekly private lesson, a weekly 45 minute group class or group activity, group and solo performance opportunities, and special educational events for students and parents.

Please Note: An annual \$10 registration fee will be charged per child via automatic bank draft after receipt of both your 2018-2019 registration form and your bank draft authorization form. If you are a returning student and you have no changes to your account on file, your registration fee will be charged when your registration form is received. There will be a \$25 fee for any returned checks. **Private lesson times for the fall will not be confirmed until you have completed registration; all families, both new and returning, must complete the online [2018-19 Registration Form](#).**

Option 1, 30 minute private lessons:

- *What is included in the price of tuition with Option 1?*
Your tuition covers a weekly 30 minute private lesson, a weekly 45 minute group class or group activity, group and solo performance opportunities, and special educational events for students and parents.
- *Tuition Payment Options:*
Monthly: 9 tuition installments of \$190 via automatic bank draft on the 1st of each month September-May
Full Academic Year: \$1695 via automatic bank draft

Option 2, 45 minute private lessons:

- *What is included in the price of tuition with Option 2?*
Your tuition covers a weekly 45 minute private lesson, a weekly 45 minute group class or group activity, group and solo performance opportunities, and special educational events for students and parents.
- *Tuition Payment Options:*
Monthly: 9 tuition installments of \$235 via automatic bank draft on the 1st of each month September-May
Full Academic Year: \$2095 via automatic bank draft

Option 3, 60 minute private lessons:

- *What is included in the price of tuition with Option 3?*
Your tuition covers a weekly 60 minute private lesson, a weekly 45 minute group class or group activity, group and solo performance opportunities, and special educational events for students and parents.
- *Tuition Payment Options:*
Monthly: 9 tuition installments of \$282.50 via automatic bank draft on the 1st of each month Sept-May
Full Academic Year: \$2520 via automatic bank draft

Suzuki Early Childhood Education Class (ages 0-4):

- Class meets weekly on Mondays from 11:00am-11:45am for 30 classes from 9/10-5/20 (There are 32 classes scheduled to allow for two built in teacher absence days.)
- Tuition is \$500 yearly per child for the class, or you can pay in 9 monthly installments of \$56 (September-May). Fee includes the accompanying SECE Class CD recording, if you are a returning student and do not need a new CD you may deduct \$15 from your tuition, please make a note of this discount on your registration form.
- **SECE Class Dates - Mondays:** 9/10, 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5, 11/12, 11/26, 12/3, 12/10, 1/7, 1/14, 1/21, 1/28, 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25, 3/4, 3/18, 3/25, 4/1, 4/8, 4/15, 4/22, 4/29, 5/6, 5/13, 5/20

Group Class Schedule

Beginner Violin Group Class (Pre-twinkle)

Thursdays 5:15-6:00pm taught by Lani Hamilton

Book 1 Violin Group Class (Twinkles-Minuet 2)

Tuesdays 4:30-5:15pm taught by Mary Grant

Book 2-3 Violin Group Class

Tuesdays 4:30-5:15pm taught by Alyssa Beckmann

Viola Group Class

Tuesdays 5:15-6:00pm taught by Alyssa Beckmann

Beginner Cello Group Class (Pre-twinkle)

Wednesdays 5:45-6:30pm taught by Matt Beckmann

Book 1-2 Cello Group Class

Tuesdays 5:15-6:00pm taught by Matt Beckmann

Beginner thru Book 2 Flute Class

Tuesdays 5:30-6:15pm taught by Mary Shemon

Flute Tone and Technique Class

Tuesdays 6:00-6:45pm taught by Mary Shemon

Chamber Classes, all string students Book 4 and up

Tuesdays 4:30-5:15pm taught by Matt Beckmann and

Fridays 5:15-6:00 taught by Matt Beckmann

*Please contact Alyssa Beckmann at alyssa@kcsuzukiacademy.com or your private teacher if you have any questions about which group class your child will be participating in.

Cancellation policy

- Tuition covers 30 scheduled private lessons and 30 group classes or group activities during the academic year. There are two additional lessons built into the calendar for the teachers, so the calendar actually has 32 scheduled lessons and group activities. These two extra weeks, or teacher absence days, are built into the calendar to allow the teachers to cancel up to two private lessons or group classes at their discretion without having to schedule a make-up. Teachers often use these absences for inclement weather, professional performances or sick days. If the teacher has to cancel more than the two teacher absences days during the course of the year, then those additional lessons or classes will be rescheduled as make-ups.
- No make-ups will be given for student absences, i.e. illness, birthday parties, sport conflicts.
- Make-up Lessons from an Economist's Point of View: <http://ottawasuzukistrings.ca/makeuplessons/>
- *Inclement Weather Policy:* In most cases, we will follow the decision of the Shawnee Mission Public Schools in regards to cancellations due to weather. Group Classes cancelled due to inclement weather will not be made-up, but your private teacher will use a teacher absence day or make-up any private lessons cancelled due to inclement weather.

Frequently Asked Questions and General Information

What makes the Suzuki Method so successful and fun for children?

The Suzuki Method is the most popular method of education in the United States and the world. The Method creates very successful and confident children, whose love of and ability in music is apparent when they play. Children love Suzuki group classes; one of the integral features of the Suzuki method is that students interact and learn together in a fun environment, creating lasting friendships. Our Suzuki teachers are all highly skilled professional performers with extensive educational training in the Suzuki Method. This training involves the study of teaching points in the Suzuki pieces, tools and games for working with young children, and understanding of Suzuki philosophy. Suzuki teachers strive to create a nurturing and welcoming learning environment for children. Teachers, parents and students all contribute to a successful Suzuki community, and we look forward to making music together!

What is the Suzuki method?

The Suzuki method is a philosophy of music education founded by the Japanese violinist Shinichi Suzuki in the middle of the 20th century. Dr. Suzuki, as he is most often referred to, transformed the world of music education by breaking down the pre-conceived notion that only talented individuals could become musicians. He believed that musical ability was achieved through discipline and hard work and that just as all children are capable of speaking their native language, all children are also all capable of learning the language of music. This concept is often referred to as talent education. Additional features that make Suzuki education different from traditional musical training are that children are encouraged to start from a very young age, children are encouraged to listen to recordings daily, parents are very involved in lessons and practicing in the beginning, and note reading is delayed as children are first taught to play by ear (just as a child learns to talk before learning how to read a book). To read more about the Suzuki method visit

<https://suzukiassociation.org/about/suzuki-method/>

Where do lessons and classes take place?

All lessons and classes are held at Rolling Hills Presbyterian Church at 9300 Nall Avenue, Overland Park, KS (between 91st and 95th streets).

Do I need to accompany my child to lessons?

Your child or children should be accompanied by an adult at all lessons, group classes and events on the Rolling Hills campus and all other KCSA events and activities. Additionally please do not let children wander around the Rolling Hills building unattended by an adult.

Where is the Suzuki Early Child Education or SECE Class?

The Suzuki Early Childhood Education class is a weekly class for children and parents from birth to age four. Developed from the concepts of the world renowned Suzuki Method, this class has a nurturing and encouraging environment where children learn from one another and work on building listening, pitch recognition, fine motor, and social skills. Each week children will have the opportunity to experience different instruments through listening and playing. "When the environment is rich and unpressured a child not only learns a skill, but also gains a sense of purpose in life, an understanding of discipline, and an appreciation of beauty." --Dr. Suzuki To learn more visit: <https://suzukiassociation.org/ece/>

What role does the parent play in Suzuki lessons?

Parents play a very important role in their child's success as a Suzuki student. In the first few years of study, the parent must dedicate a great deal of time and effort to helping their child practice. Dr. Suzuki often referred to the parent as the home teacher; this dedication on the part of the parent creates a lasting, meaningful bond with their child, and is a very rewarding experience for families as they see their child develop and grow into a beautiful musician and kind person. Regular attendance at lessons and group classes help a child thrive in the program and feel successful in their studies, and in addition, parents should be present and attentive at private lessons and group classes. It is very helpful for the parent to take detailed

notes in the lesson, and many parents enjoy learning the instrument alongside their child. Parents can help their child by carving out regular practice time in their child's busy schedule. Additionally, group concerts and dress rehearsals are the culmination of all the work we do during the semester, and all students are expected to participate in these special events. It is a very beneficial experience for students to perform on at least one solo performance during the year as well. Most importantly, parents are the cheerleaders for their children, helping to support and encourage their child and make their child's musical journey fun!

Why does my child participate in group classes in addition to their private lesson?

Group classes are a vital part of the Suzuki method. Children develop a different set of skills in their group or ensemble class than they do in their private lessons. Both the private and group class are of equal importance. During the private lesson, we hone in on technique and we introduce new pieces and skills. In group class, children develop listening and ensemble skills; they are inspired to excel by their peers, and are motivated by the social interaction and friendships that they form across many years.

Will my child learn how to read music?

Yes, all Suzuki students learn how to read music! In the Suzuki method, note reading is just delayed a few years more than with traditional music methods. When a child learns to start playing an instrument there are so many complex factors to think about. We are asking the child to perform detailed tasks with their body in addition to developing the skills of listening and sensitivity for musical pitch, rhythm and sound. Dr. Suzuki found that students progress much faster if they foster these skills and develop confidence in playing their instrument before they add on the tasks of interpreting written symbols for reading music. Additionally, music reading is delayed until the child has started reading words, so that the skill of tracking left to right with the eyes is already well established.

Where can I rent an instrument?

We have a partnership with the Beckmann Violin Shop that allows us to deliver violin, viola and cello rentals at your lesson without you having to schedule an appointment or travel to schedule repairs or upsizes. Please contact mlbeckmann@gmail.com for more details about rates and sizing. For flute rentals, please contact Mary Shemon directly at kansascityflute@gmail.com

What is a Play-In?

A Play-In is a special group class that happens several times throughout the year. This class combines all of the different level classes on one instrument, into one big class. The violas and cellos typically have a Play-In Class together since they have the same strings, and play many of their Suzuki pieces in the same key. The Play-In dates are on the school calendar, and your Play-In time may be different than your usual group class time. All of the Play-Ins are on Tuesdays and take the place of your regular group class for that week. The Chamber Orchestra will still have it's regularly scheduled class on Play-In weeks, although the students in the Chamber Orchestra are welcome to participate in the Play-Ins on Tuesdays if they are actively reviewing their Suzuki repertoire.

Does my child need to participate in all recitals and concerts?

We have performances throughout the year in the form of group concerts, solo recitals and community outreach concerts. Attendance is required at the Winter and Spring Group Concerts and corresponding concert dress rehearsals. All other performances including community performances and solo recitals are optional. Students are encouraged to perform on at least one solo recital a year!

Can I drop out in the middle of the year?

When you enroll in lessons at the Kansas City Suzuki Academy, you are committing to lessons for the duration of that academic year. Children benefit greatly from the commitment of working through a rough patch, and the whole program thrives if families are dedicated for the full academic year. If you choose to leave before the end of the academic year, please be aware that no refunds will be given. A partial year refund will be given only if you choose to leave within three weeks of your child's first lesson; after this three-week trial period no refunds will be given.

How do summer lessons work?

Summer lessons will begin the week immediately following the end of the academic calendar. We do not follow a pre-determined calendar in the summer; rather, you and your private teacher will work out a summer lesson schedule that fits with both of your schedules. We strongly encourage all families to take no fewer than two private lessons per month in the summer, so that students have a chance to maintain their playing abilities and feel confident when they return in the fall. There are no group classes in the summer.