



# VIOLIN LESSONS

## **Suzuki Student String Handbook**



BELLEVUE BAPTIST CHURCH

School of Performing Arts

# SPA Strings 2024-2025 Calendar

## FALL 2024 (Revised 6/14/2024)

- August 12: SPA Fall Semester Begins
- August 7, 14, 21, & 28: Awesome August (Book 4 and up play in orchestra on August 7th)
- **August 14 and 21: Suzuki Education Parent Class - new parents 5-6 pm**  
MUST ATTEND BOTH SESSIONS
- August 20: Advanced Group Service in Corinth, MS
- August 21: Group Classes Begin - **Play-in** - P219 - Beginner - Book 3
- September 2: Labor Day Holiday – SPA Closed
- **October TBD: No Group Classes - Fall Break**
- October: All-West Registration Deadline TBD
- **October 30: Recital Auditions 4-6pm**
- **November 2: String Solo Recitals**
- November 20: Last group/Christmas Carol practice
- November 23: All-West Auditions - Collierville HS
- November 26-29: Thanksgiving Break – SPA Closes 12 pm on Tuesday 11/26
  - o No Group on Wednesday, Nov. 27
- **December 4: SCT Strings Staging Rehearsal 5-6pm Tentative**
- December 12-15: Singing Christmas Tree
- **December 8 OR 22: Christmas Carols in West Lobby TBD**
- **TBD: Christmas Tour with 45Worship Team**

All-West 2/13 - 2/14

All State 4/10 - 4/13

## SPRING 2025

- COMING SOON!

## Brief Summary of Suzuki Talent Education

Suzuki Talent Education is both a teaching method and a philosophy that focuses on the complete development and nurturing of the child. Dr. Suzuki's overriding goal was "Character first, ability second". The unique emphasis on loving the child creates an environment that is ripe for character development. The method consists of these principles:

The **parent is the home teacher** - an equal participant in the learning process. Your responsibility is to practice daily with your child and attend all lessons. Dr. Suzuki modeled his method from the Mother-Tongue Approach, which states that all children learn to speak their native language naturally, given the proper environment. Create a **positive musical environment** by listening to (and enjoying!) the reference recordings and attending concerts regularly. Training the ear by singing, listening, and imitating is a part of every lesson--learning each piece internally before playing it.

All students learn the **same repertoire**. As they become familiar with the pieces, they anticipate them with excitement. This facilitates great opportunities for ensemble playing, whether during group class or with another Suzuki student anywhere in the world! The Suzuki Method is a cumulative method and **review** of each previous piece is a part of daily practice. By continually reviewing, the students are able to build a strong repertoire and perfect new skills, growing as musicians by deeper study of previous pieces.

Each student should attend **group and private lessons**. Our group lessons take place on Wednesday evenings. These are so vital to your success, as they provide community, ensemble experience, and help motivate the students to keep working! Private lesson times are worked out with your teacher. Before beginning lessons, we ask that you contact your prospective teacher to set up any required observations. This requirement may be adjusted at the teacher's discretion. Observing another child's lesson will help you and your child get a true picture of what is expected.

"Students under the age of 12 that do well in the Suzuki Method are, without fail, students who have active and involved parents. This includes taking thorough notes during each lesson, and endeavoring to practice with their student every day, 7 days a week. The parents are the teacher's "hand" at home and should be very careful to make sure they understand the assignments to the best of their ability. It is very difficult for a child to remember 30 minutes of instructions and to watch themselves practice. Having a parent as a practice teammate and encourager on a daily basis helps the child to continue progressing through the method rather than becoming stuck on an insurmountable technique. Too often, a teacher receives too much blame, or too much praise. The student's work ethic (largely decided by the parent attending the lesson) will determine his or her progress.

The Suzuki Method is not about forcing prodigy upon people. Dr. Suzuki believed that music could teach children life lessons. Hard and consistent work equalling success is one of the most valuable lessons any child could ever learn; the parent attending the lessons is largely responsible for this success. Although some of our students do go on to become professional musicians, our focus is to nurture in them the ability to create and enjoy beautiful music the rest of their lives.

## **SPA New Suzuki Parent Policy**

New Suzuki parents are required to complete the entry process into our program

- New Student/Parent Requirements
  - o Parent must arrange a set time and day for private lessons with a teacher
  - o Parent and student are recommended to complete up to four observations of other students' lessons as stipulated by their private teacher
  - o Parent must attend BOTH sessions of the **Suzuki Parent Education Class\*** when offered

### **\*Suzuki Parent Education Class:**

- This class will prepare you for successfully practicing with your child and guiding him or her through our Suzuki Program with:
  - o More information about Bellevue's School of Performing Arts String Program
  - o The philosophy of the Suzuki Method—why it works, how it works, and tips for success
  - o Special instructions, practice strategies, and encouragement from experienced SPA String teachers and Suzuki parents
- Fall 2024 Suzuki Parent Education Class will be held Wednesday August 14th AND 21st from 5-6pm. Cost to attend is \$30 per family. Payment due at first meeting. You must attend BOTH sessions.
- New parents must attend both education classes as they are starting lessons
- Classes will give you the tools for successfully practicing and guiding your child through our Suzuki Program
- Classes will include special instruction from our SPA String teachers
- Class will include select materials to aid in preparing you
- Students do not need to present for these meetings



## **Private Lesson Room Assignments**

- o Alexander, Lindsey P236
- o Britt, Cecily P234
- o Lesmes, Miguel P232
- o Mullen, Erin P224
- o Nowell, Cynthia P222
- o Palacios, Martin P244

## String Group Levels Fall 2024

Wednesdays, 5:00pm, East Side, Preschool Building, 2nd Floor

- Pre-Twinkles (Cynthia Nowell) P222
- Twinkles: AE1E - Song of the Wind (Kristy Robinson) P220
- Book 1: Go Tell Aunt Rhody - Chorus (Erin Mullen) P224
- Book 2-3: Musette - Seitz 3/2 (Cecily Britt/Miguel) P234
- Book 4+: Seitz 5/1 and up (Martin Palacios & Lindsey Alexander) Orchestra Room

\*\*\* We ask that a parent attend each group with our Pretwinkle, Twinkle and Book 1 students.

\*\*\* For Book 1 and up classes, whichever class you are in at the beginning of Fall 2024, you will continue with for the duration of the school year. Even if you move up to another level in the books, you will stay in your current class through our String Graduation and Final Concert in April 2025.

\*\*\* Pre-twinkle and Twinkle students may move out of those group classes as they advance in the material but only at the direction of their private teacher.

## **BOOK 4 and UP GROUP CLASS**

Wednesdays 4:30-6:10pm

Orchestra Room

We desire for our most advanced students to have a well rounded group class and rehearsal. Our aim is to reinforce Suzuki techniques and repertoire as well as provide sight reading and ensemble experience, develop new pieces that can be performed as a group in ministry performances throughout the year and teach the basic skills needed to be a part of our Sanctuary Orchestra. We would love for them to join us in leading worship in any of our orchestra rehearsals, worship services and special performances. Because schedules are limited and many of our students are involved in other areas of our church on Wednesday nights, we've implemented a new experience for our advanced students.

### **Approximate Group class schedule:**

4:15pm Arrive, unpack and tune as you can

4:30pm Begin promptly with warmup and Suzuki repertoire/chamber music (levels will split for first 30 minutes)

5:00pm Break for dinner (will be provided)

5:15pm Ensemble/chamber music

5:45pm Orchestra Sectional

6:10pm Finish group class - Actual Orchestra rehearsal begins - you are welcome to stay if you are able!

Because we will be providing dinner for our students each week, if there is a week you know of ahead of time that you will be out, please email [cbritt@bellevue.org](mailto:cbritt@bellevue.org) by Tuesday of that week so we can make the necessary changes to our dinner order. Also, if there are any dietary issues we should know about, please communicate with us at the beginning of the semester.

Please bring your instrument, a folder to contain all the music we will provide and a pencil to each rehearsal.

## FALL RECITALS

**Fall Recitals: Saturday, November 2, 2024**

Times: 11 am or 2 pm

Location: Chapel

**All students are required to perform on the Fall Recitals.**

Teachers will determine if new students are ready to participate.

**Recital Pieces** need to be completed and memorized at least 2 months prior to the recital auditions. This will allow time for polishing memory stabilization and will help the student feel more confident about playing before a large group.

**Recital Auditions** will be the Wednesday prior to the recital date (November 1st). **Each student will be scheduled for a time slot with the recital accompanist and an adjudicating teacher.** This is for auditioning the piece with the pianist as well as working on stage presence. Your private lesson teacher will let you know the assigned time. If the adjudicating teacher feels more work is needed or the piece is not ready, then he/she will discuss that with your private teacher. Auditioning with the accompanist is **MANDATORY**.

**Dress:** The recital is to be a dressy occasion – Dressy Sunday attire or better.

**GIRLS:** Sunday morning attire: dresses, skirts, or dress pants are appropriate. Hemlines should be below the knees. Dresses or blouses should have sleeves. No jeans/leggings/jeggings or tennis shoes.

**BOYS:** A suit or conservative slacks with nice shirt is appropriate. For preschool boys, dressy Sunday morning attire is appropriate. No jeans/shorts, tshirts or tennis shoes.

There will be reception after each recital.

There are no Spring solo recitals since our string students will perform in the Final Concert and Graduation.

## **String Graduation & Final Concert**

**Date: TBD**

**Fellowship Hall**

String Graduation & Celebration Concert is our final string performance of the year. Students who are graduating will perform auditioned Suzuki pieces that mark milestones in the student's musical progress. Each student will participate in group class pieces performed during the concert. Everyone will perform a Grand Finale piece together at the end of the concert.

The Suzuki program is not designed for students to graduate from a piece every year. Much is sacrificed when a student is rushed through the curriculum to try to have a piece ready for graduation.

Remember the focus is on learning to play with correct posture, good technique, beautiful tone, and musicality. The time and effort invested in developing quality early on will yield a more balanced child and a superior string player.

### **Requirements to Graduate:**

- The student must be actively registered in the SPA through private lessons and/or group class.
  - This includes attending group classes throughout the year
- Completed Review Checklist (See following info)
- Completed Audition process (See following info)
- Completed Theory Book & Testing with passable grade (85% or above)
- Attendance of all major rehearsals for Graduation Concert

### **Dress for Graduation:**

- Girls: Modest dresses, dress slacks with blouses, or skirts with blouses. Dresses or skirts should be knee length. You can wear a combination of *black & white*. Or you may wear *all black* or *all white*.
- Guys: Black dress pants, white or black dress shirt, and black dress shoes. A black or silver tie may be worn as well, but is not required.

# String Graduation & Final Concert

**Date: TBD**

**6:00PM-8:00PM**

**Fellowship Hall**

String Graduation is part of the final string performance for the year. The graduation pieces are selected pieces in the Suzuki Books that mark milestones in the student's musical progress. Expectations for graduation pieces are higher than those for a normal recital. Students must audition to qualify for graduation. Those who have passed their graduation audition will play their graduation pieces as a group with any others graduating from the same piece on graduation evening.

The Suzuki program is not designed for students to graduate from a piece every year. Much is sacrificed when a student is rushed through the curriculum to try to have a piece ready for graduation.

**Remember the focus is on learning to play with correct posture, good technique, beautiful tone, and musicality. The time and effort invested in developing quality early on will yield a more balanced child and a superior string player.**

## **Requirements to Graduate:**

1. The student must be actively involved in the SPA through private lessons and/or group class.
2. Every piece in the Suzuki Books between the previous graduation piece and the current graduation piece must be memorized, polished, and signed off by your private teacher during the review period (beginning in January 2024).
3. The graduation piece must be memorized and polished.
4. The student should have completed and be working on the specified piece (see below) beyond the graduation piece.
5. Theory assignments for current level must be completed and the test for that level passed with 85% accuracy or above.
6. If these requirements have been met, the student is eligible to audition for graduation. A panel of adjudicators will determine eligibility.
7. Adjudication will include:
  - a. Scales & Arpeggios
  - b. Theory Test: Minimum passing score – 85%
  - c. Performance of Graduation Piece

# Graduation Levels

Revised July 2023

To graduate from: Must be on or past piece at time of Graduation Auditions

<b>Violin:</b>	<b>Grad Piece</b>	<b>Current Piece</b>
Level 1 -	Twinkle (5 variations & Theme)	O Come Little children
Level 2 -	Gossec Gavotte	Long, Long Ago
Level 3 -	Boccherini Minuet	Gavotte in g minor
Level 4 -	Bach Bourree	Seitz Concerto No. 5
Level 5 -	Bach Concerto for Two Violins, II	Vivaldi Concerto in g minor
Level 6 -	Bach Concerto for Two Violins, I	Mvt 1 Fiocco Allegro
Level 7 -	Bach Concerto in A minor*	Eccles Sonata
Level 8 -	Mozart Concerto*	Director's Approval

\* Must be prepared to play all three movements in their entirety. Piece must be completely polished and performance ready. Only one movement will be played in concert.

\*Once a student has completed all 10 books he/she may choose the concerto to audition on along with teacher's approval.

## **Graduation Scales & Arpeggios Requirement**

Level 1 (Twinkle) –	A -1 oct
Level 2 (Gossec Gavotte) –	C, D -1 oct; G, A -2 oct
Level 3 (Boc. Minuet) –	C, D, F, -1 oct; G, A, -2 oct
Level 4 (Bach Bourree) –	Eb, E, F -1 oct; G, A, Bb, C, D, -2 oct
Level 5 (Bach Double Part 2) –	a minor -1 oct; All Major -2 oct; G -3 oct
Level 6 (Bach Double Part 1) –	a, e, g, minor -1 oct; All Major -2 oct; G, A -3 oct
Level 7 (Bach Concerto in A minor) –	All minor -2 oct; All Major -3 oct
Level 8 (Mozart Concerto in D Major) –	All -3 oct scales

<b>Viola:</b>	<b>Grad Piece</b>	<b>Current Piece</b>
Level 1 -	Twinkle	Go Tell Aunt Rhody
Level 2 -	Gossec Gavotte	Long, Long Ago
Level 3 -	Bocc. Minuet	Gavotte in G minor
Level 4-	Bach Bourree	Seitz – Concerto No.5
Level 5-	Telemann Concerto in G Major Sonata in G Major (Presto)	
Level 6	Seitz Concerto No.3 in C minor	TBA
Level 7-	TBA	
Level 8-	TBA	

\* Must be prepared to play all three movements in their entirety. Piece must be completely polished and performance ready. Only one movement will be played in concert.

### **Graduation Scales & Arpeggios Requirement**

Level 1 (Twinkles)	D -1 oct
Level 2 Gossec Gavotte	D, G -1oct; C -2oct
Level 3 (Book 2) Bocc. Minuet	G, F, -1oct; D, C, Eb -2oct; G, D minor -1oct
Level 4 (Book 3) Bach Bourree	A -1oct; G, D minor -1oct; D, C, Eb -2 oct;
Level 5 (Book 4) Telemann Concerto	All Major -2 oct up to 4 sharps/flats; E, C, B minor -2oct; C, Eb -3oct;
Level 6 (Book 5) Seitz Concerto No. 3	All Major -2 oct; E, B minor -2oct; C, Eb -3oct; C minor -3oct



<b>Cello:</b>	<b>Grad Piece</b>	<b>Current Piece</b>
Level 1 -	Twinkle	O Come Little Children
Level 2 -	Minuet 2	Minuet No. 3 (Bk. 2)
Level 3 -	Boccherini Minuet	Minuet No. 3 (Bk. 3)
Level 4 -	Sonata in C Major*	Finished Bk. 4
Level 5 -	Danse Rustique	Finished book 5
Level 6 -	Eccles Sonata*	Sicilienne
Level 7 -	Allegro Appassionato	Finished Bk. 8
Level 8 -	Concerto.	Directors Approval

\* Must be prepared to play all movements in their entirety. Piece must be completely polished and performance ready. Only one movement will be played in concert.

### **Graduation Scales & Arpeggios Requirement**

Level 1(Twinkles) –	D Major -1 Oct
Level 2 (Minuet 2) –	A, F, Bb, Eb -1 Oct; C, G, D -2 Oct
Level 3 (Bocc. Minuet) –	Bb 1 Oct; C, G, D, A, Eb, F -2 Oct
Level 4 (Breval Sonata) –	All Major -2 Oct; C -3 Oct
Level 5 (Danse Rustique) –	All Major -3 Oct
Level 6 (Eccles Sonata) –	All Major -3 Oct; G, D, A mel. minor -3 Oct
Level 7 (Allegro Appassionato) –	All Major & Minor -3 Oct
Level 8 (Concerto) –	All Major & Minor -3 Oct; All Major & Minor -4 Oct from C-G

## \*Review Piece Requirements

Revised July 2023

- Student must prepare and polish all review pieces required by the level.
- Student will pass off review pieces with private teacher during review period: January-March dates given in handbook
- Private Teacher will submit Review Checklist to String Coordinator for recommendation to proceed to Graduation Auditions.

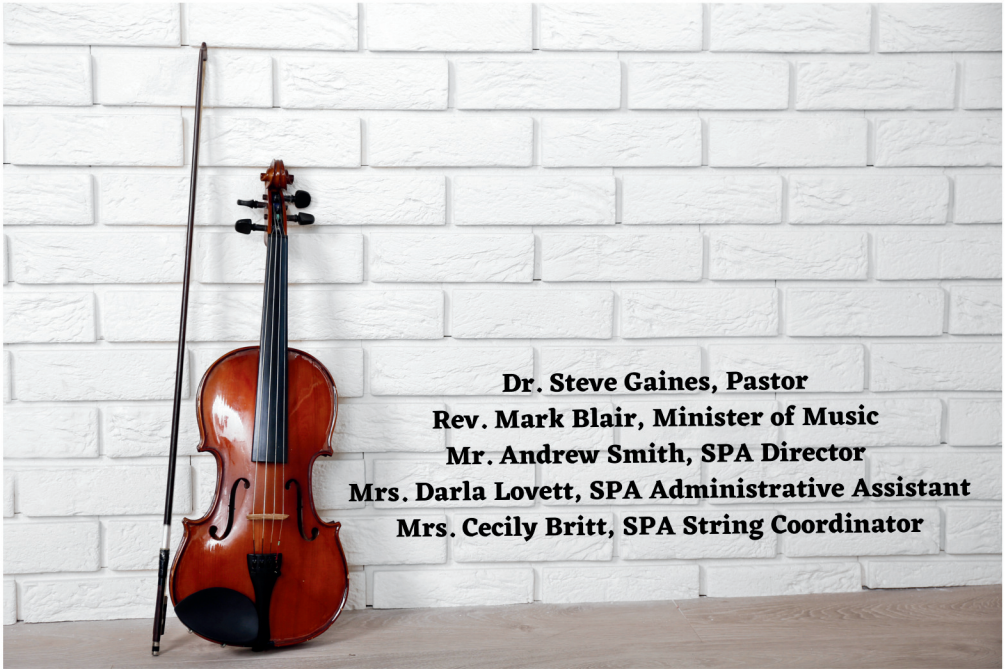
<u>Violin</u>	<u>Graduation Piece</u>	<u>Review Pieces</u>
Level 1 -	Twinkles	No Review
Level 2 -	Gossec Gavotte	Lightly Row – Happy Farmer
Level 3 -	Boccherini Minuet	Chorus – Minuet in G
Level 4 -	Bach Bourree	Martini Gavotte –Gavotte in D
Level 5 -	Bach Double Violin 2	Major 1st Seitz – Vivaldi A minor
Level 6 -	Bach Double Violin 2	3rd Mvt Bach Gavotte – Gigue
Level 7 -	Bach Concerto in Am	Director’s Approval
Level 8 -	Mozart Concerto in DM	Director’s Approval

<u>Viola:</u>	<u>Graduation Piece</u>	<u>Review Pieces</u>
Level 1 -	Twinkle	No Review
Level 2 -	Gossec Gavotte	French Folk – The Happy Farmer
Level 3 -	Bocc. Minuet	Chorus—Minuet in G
Level 4-	Bach Bourree	Martini Gavotte –Bach Gavotte
Level 5-	Telemann Concerto in GM	Seitz No.2 –Vivaldi Concerto Mvt,
Level 6	Seitz Concerto No. 3	3 Director’s Approval
Level 7-	Bach Concerto in Cm	Director’s Approval
Level 8-	Handel Concerto in Bm	Director’s Approval

<u>Cello:</u>	<u>Graduation Piece</u>	<u>Review Pieces</u>
Level 1 -	Twinkle	No Review
Level 2 -	Minuet 2	French Folk Song – Minuet in C
Level 3 -	Bocc. Minuet	Long, Long Ago – Lully Gavotte
Level 4 -	Breval Sonata	Scherzo – Allegro Moderato
Level 5 -	Danse Rustique	Adagio – Sonata in E minor
Level 6 -	Eccles Sonata	Director’s Approval
Level 7 -	Allegro Appassionato	Director’s Approval
Level 8 -	Concerto	Director’s Approval

## **\*Solo Festival & Graduation Auditions (SFGA)**

- SFGA Date and Time: TBD
- Students will sign-up online the weeks prior to auditions
- Theory Testing
  - All students will take Theory Tests on this date.
  - Students may choose to take tests before or after their assigned audition time. Please allow for extra time to complete the test.
  - Students must pass the test with an 85% or higher in order to move on to next book
- Solo Festival Requirements
  - Students not graduating will prepare a selected piece with their teacher for adjudication
  - Student will bring two copies of solo piece to audition
  - Students may be chosen as a top performer and requested to perform in the Honors Recital.
- Graduation Audition Requirements
  - Students will perform Suzuki Graduation piece(s) at assigned audition time
  - Students will have completed Review Checklist prior to auditions and been recommended for graduation auditions by their teacher
  - Students must pass the audition and be recommended for graduation by judges
  - Students may be chosen as a top performer and requested to perform in the Honors Recital



**Dr. Steve Gaines, Pastor**  
**Rev. Mark Blair, Minister of Music**  
**Mr. Andrew Smith, SPA Director**  
**Mrs. Darla Lovett, SPA Administrative Assistant**  
**Mrs. Cecily Britt, SPA String Coordinator**

**Updated 6/17/2024**