

# MacPhail

CENTER FOR MUSIC

Dear New Suzuki Family,

Welcome to the MacPhail Suzuki Program! We are glad your family will become a part of our musical community.

All new parents entering our program participate in a semester-long parent education program. This time is devoted to the parents' understanding of the Suzuki method and will prepare you for a rewarding Suzuki experience for years to come.

Suzuki education differs in some important ways from traditional music lessons. One unique element is the role of the parent. We rely on the "Suzuki triangle," a term used to describe the three essential partners in the learning process: a trained Suzuki teacher, the child, and the parent. The Suzuki parent's job is to become a "home teacher" who understands the philosophy, the instrument, the teacher's goals and methods, and the child's learning needs. The daily practice sessions and music listening environment created by you at home are critical factors in the success of the Suzuki method. This course is designed to help new parents get the information they need in order to fulfill this teaching role.

- The New Parent Class meets at De LaSalle High School (1 De LaSalle Drive, Minneapolis) in D117. Enter the building under the Clock Tower. When you walk in, go down the first hallway directly in front of you (do not turn right or left). You will see room D117 on the right-hand side.
- **The first parent class meeting will be from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>.** At this meeting we will watch a video on the life and work of Dr. Shinichi Suzuki and hand out parent class materials.
- **The remaining class meetings will take place from 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m., and the remaining dates will be October 15, October 29, November 12, November 19, and December 3.**
- The final class will be held during the spring semester, on **April 29**. This session is unique in that we combine both the fall and spring classes together with a Parent Panel, featuring some experienced Suzuki parents who will share their experiences as Suzuki parents in our program.
- The course includes reading materials, a workbook, observations of lessons, and weekly discussions based on the philosophy of Dr. Suzuki.
- Attendance at all sessions of the class is required.
- Your initial lessons with your private teacher will be devoted to working with only the teaching parent. Your teacher will help you to understand the basics of the instrument you have chosen for your child. You will need an instrument for yourself for these initial lessons. Please contact your studio teacher for assistance with selecting your instrument.
- **FOR PIANO FAMILIES:** You must have a piano before lessons begin. Acoustic pianos are strongly encouraged, and some teachers require them. Discuss this with your studio teacher.
- **FOR ALL OTHER INSTRUMENTS:** Do not purchase an instrument for your child without prior discussion with your studio teacher.
- Your child will begin private lessons when your studio teacher feels you have mastered the basics of the instrument.

If you have any questions about any of these aspects of the parent education workshop, feel free to e-mail me at [christycello@gmail.com](mailto:christycello@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

**Christy Libbus**

Suzuki Cello Faculty

Suzuki Parent Class Instructor