

# NEW STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

Length Playing \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred method of contact    Phone 1    Phone 2    Email

Specific Musical Interests

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# Media Permission

I hereby give my consent for my child's picture and/or performance to be included in multimedia and social networking posts that represent the Suzuki Strings of Southeast Wisconsin. This may involve, but is not Limited to the child's inclusion within:

[www.suzukistringssewi.com](http://www.suzukistringssewi.com)

Public posters for upcoming events

Printed advertisements

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





## Teacher Policies

What you should expect from me

### Excellence:

Any child playing the violin or viola can be cute, but being excellent is something worth working for and being proud of! I am very firm in my expectation of excellence, but I understand that it comes in steps. For each successful execution of a given goal, students should be praised. For true progress and a willing commitment to be made, nothing is a better motivator than the achievement of excellence!

### Expectations:

I will always be very clear about how I feel about a child's preparation and level of commitment. I will let students know what they are doing well and how they can improve on things they're struggling with. If you ever have a question as to what is expected from week to week, or how to achieve a specific result, please ask.

### Goals:

Goal setting and achievement is one of the most important skills a young child can develop. Whether the goal is as broad as having a piece prepared by the recital date, or as specific as the angle at which the fingers are placed, much attention will be placed on goals. Ideally, the student will be able to set his or her own goals and understand the steps needed to achieve them. To help this process, I will verbalize, demonstrate and guide the student to understand each goal, and make sure the practice techniques achieve the desired results.

### Availability:

I am always available to you. Call and leave me a message, text me, email me. I love to hear your questions, comments, concerns and stories. I will usually get back to you in a day or two.

### Tools:

**Your Suzuki CD** should be your soundtrack! Have it on as much as possible so the pieces become familiar; listen to the entire CD multiple times a day.

**The Website** [www.suzukistringssewi.com](http://www.suzukistringssewi.com) has all of the pieces recorded at slower speeds and with instructions to help facilitate a more productive and motivating home lesson. Use these recordings when your child is learning a new piece, playing review, or preparing for a recital. The website also has a full calendar of events, local performance, pictures & videos from recitals, and lots more, so check it out regularly!

**Preparing for Twinkle** is a comprehensive tool to help you confidently guide your child at home and to keep your child excited about his/her progress. Use this daily!

**Taking notes** in your *Preparing for Twinkle* book is one of the best strategies for having a productive week at home. You will remember more, and you will generate more questions for me during the lesson and at home, so that I can help clarify instructions or definitions.

**Communication** has taken on new forms with smartphones and the internet. Send me pictures or videos of your child playing if you have a question, and most often, I will be able to address and help whatever issue you are having - without you having to wait for your lesson day. If we arrange it in advance, Skype or FaceTime work well too!

**The Newsletter** will come at the beginning of each month and is available on the home page of the website. This newsletter has all other the monthly information regarding scheduling, concerts and recitals, outside events, workshops, and anything else that is pertinent for the month.

**Calendars** are available for both the full year and each individual month. All recitals, concerts, workshops, and breaks are scheduled in September, giving you plenty of time to make arrangements to attend each event, and eliminating "surprise" recitals.

## Lessons Policies

What I expect from you

### Payment:

Individual lessons

\$25 for 30 minutes

\$37.50 for 45 minutes

\$50 for 60 minutes

Group Classes

\$200 per semester

Lesson fees are due at the first lesson of each month in cash or check. Late fees will accrue at \$5 per lesson if payment is more than a week late. If there is a special circumstance, please let me know; I'll be happy to work with you.

**Swap List** - Parents can opt to be on a Swap List to swap times with another student in the event of an absence. This list will be updated monthly in each newsletter, and will include all the times and phone numbers/emails of families who are willing to swap lesson times. In the event that you need a different time for the week, you can contact each other to change your times.

**1 excused absence/semester** - Each student will have 1 excused absence in the Fall semester, 1 in the Spring, and 1 in the summer

**Student cancelations** - If a student misses their lesson for any reason beyond the 1 excused absence each semester (illness, unforeseen circumstance, vacation, etc.), there will not be any make-up lesson or credit. Of course if there is an extreme extenuating circumstance, such absences will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

**Teacher cancelations** - If I cancel for any reason, I will credit the lesson or make it up.

### Tardiness:

Please do not be late for a lesson. Lessons are scheduled for 30 minutes back to back and it is very difficult to stay on schedule if a student is late. For that reason, if you are tardy for any reason, your lesson will end at its regularly scheduled time.

### Lesson Etiquette:

**Parents**, please be prepared to take notes during your child's lesson. You will be working with your son or daughter at home and taking notes is an ideal way to make sure there are no miscommunications.

**Students** should be respectful and prepared for each lesson. If a student cannot continue with a lesson either because of blatant disrespect or a complete lack of preparation, he or she will be asked to leave, without reimbursement for the lesson. I call this the million dollar lesson, because it usually only happens once and the lesson learned is worth a million bucks!

**Siblings** are welcome and even encouraged to come to the lessons. There is no better musical preparation for younger siblings than to observe a big sister or brother taking lessons. Siblings will be expected to not distract the student having a lesson, and the teacher reserves the right to ask the child to go to the play-room if he or she cannot behave appropriately.

### Practice:

Practice should be a normal part of every-day life for your child. The more it is a consistent part of his or her routine, the less of a chance for arguments and procrastination. Practice time doesn't have to be all at once, or only include time with the instrument up. It can be time spent listening or singing or in any other way engaging purposefully in the pursuit of reaching the assigned goals for the week.

Practice should be 7 days a week for at least 30 minutes a day, as the child progresses, so will the practice time at home.

I encourage parents to be active participants in practice lessons at home. Work with your child in the same way I do at the lesson, and even take a bow so there is a definitive beginning and end to the practice time.

### Commitment:

Music lessons will do much more than just teach your child how to play an instrument. They will help with self-confidence, promote good study habits, and teach discipline and commitment, among other things. All children will go through periods where they do not want to practice, or when they don't progress as quickly as they usually do; this is normal, but very frustrating to the child. The most important lesson they can learn during this time is perseverance. Encourage your child to keep a positive attitude and insist on the daily practice routine to help them understand that practice, just like homework, is non-negotiable. Consistency and excitement on the part of the parent are the best combatants against the "I-don't-want-to's!" Commit to one complete Suzuki book at a time, and always be positive and focus on what is going well when you hit a rough patch.

### Recitals & Concerts:

**Semester Recitals** are often the moments that inspire the greatest joy and dedication in students. They are beneficial on many levels for the student and the family. Because of this, *these events are mandatory*. I do my best to check with everyone's schedule before scheduling an event, or I plan it a full semester in advance so everyone can make plans to be there. Whether it is a solo recital or a group concert, other students are depending on your child to be there and support them, so missing a concert hurts not only the child that misses but also all the other children involved. If you know you cannot attend an event, please let me know as soon as possible.

**Nursing Home Recitals** occur on a Saturday approximately every other month during the school year. These performances provide an opportunity for the students to play a review piece they love for a grateful and appreciative audience. These are not mandatory recitals, but since these performances are meant to teach the importance of sharing one's music, students must audition for me with a piece they choose. The goal is for students to think of their performance as a beautiful gift to the residents we play for.

**Book Recitals** are a celebration of a student completing an entire book. When this happens, the family picks a date and location that works for the teacher, pianist and guests. The student then, will perform the entire book in his or her own recital. This is often followed by a small reception of some sort, but that is up to the family. This is one of the biggest achievements your child will have with his or her violin, and the motivation and confidence that comes with completing a full book recital is truly remarkable!

### Instruments:

The instrument your child plays should be the correct size and be able to produce a beautiful sound. When beginning, I highly recommend renting. It will save you money on maintenance and on moving through the fractional size instruments. I also recommend that you purchase a set of good strings for your instrument. Having good strings completely changes the sound of the instrument and minimizes the effort it takes to play it. If you rent from Korinthian Violins, her instruments come with good strings, so there is no need to purchase additional strings.

When you are ready to purchase an instrument, it is imperative that I be a part of this process. A nice but basic violin will cost you between \$1500 and \$4000 and every instrument is very different. I will help you find one that is in your price range and ideal for your child. Please do not purchase an instrument online or at a garage sale. I know it's tempting to bring an instrument home, but it's heartbreaking if I have to tell you it's unplayable.

## **Registration Packet - \$50**

Holds your place in the studio and pays for the following:

Preparing for Twinkle - A guide for your lessons at home, and a place to take notes in during the lesson.

Suzuki Violin Vol. 1 – Book and CD; you won't need the book for a while, but you should start listening to your CD right away.

Small rice box to make your 1<sup>st</sup> violin, you'll just need a brown paper bag and a little creativity!

Stickers - Mark your progress as you review skills and learn new things.

Sponge - You will receive this when you are ready and we can pick out the one that fits you the best!

### **Useful Apps**

Metronome

Tempo Slow

Scale Master

Musician's Kit

### **Renting/Purchasing**

Korinthian Violins in Bay View – for all rentals, instrument purchases, set up and repair needs. Her instruments are the best in town, reasonably priced and she is wonderful to work with.

SHAR music – for any smaller purchases like rosin, music, strings, metronomes and tuners. Everyone that works there is a string musician and they can help you with your ordering.

Sharmusic.com or 1-800-248-SHAR



### **Teacher Contact information**

Call or Text  
414-759-5584

[gretchenleanna@gmail.com](mailto:gretchenleanna@gmail.com)

Web page: [www.suzukistringssewi.com](http://www.suzukistringssewi.com)