

Capitol Hill Suzuki Strings First, Second & Third Grades

Dear 1st- through 3rd Grade Parents and Students,

My name is John Middleton, and I would like to introduce myself as the Suzuki Strings and Orchestra Director. Our Suzuki Strings program begins with children in grades 1, 2 & 3 who want to study violin. Suzuki string education is a method of teaching young children to play by learning a progressive sequence of pieces by memory, through extensive listening to a CD of those pieces, and by having parents practice closely with the child both at home and during the school semi-private lesson. We purposely teach note reading at a later stage in the child's development, as they progress toward the end of Book One, or transition into the upper elementary grades with orchestras called Cougar Strings and the more advanced Capitol Strings.

Students and parents come once per week, during the school day, for a semi-private lesson for 25 minutes, with 2 to 3 students. After they have learned several pieces, students may also come to the Suzuki Book One Group Class, to learn in a larger group setting.

What you will need:

- 1) A commitment to come to the school for the semi-private lesson and to work together at home for daily practice (Don't worry! Even if you think you have little musical experience, my job is to help you do this!!)
- 2) You will need to rent or purchase an instrument. Information about many sources for instruments can be found on my webpage and the Orchestra room. Be sure to check proper instrument size with me before visiting a music store or placing an order.
- 3) Lesson book: *Suzuki Violin School Book One*, with a CD recording of Book One pieces.

To schedule lessons: Return sign up form OR confirm your interest via email. Preview my schedule on my part of the Capitol Hill website and outside the Orchestra room, to see the time slots I have set aside for 1st through 3rd grade students. Then beginning on Parent Information Night, I will have a large poster of my schedule, on which parents can write in preferred lesson times. You may wish to check how that fits with their child's classroom schedule.

Most years, I am able to accommodate most families who are interested, but there may be a waiting list for 1st graders depending on how many students in 3rd and 2nd grades will be studying. There is also an opportunity to begin playing orchestra instruments with a more traditional group lesson approach starting in 4th grade.

Please keep this information and return the bottom of the form to me, your child's classroom teacher, or email me. I invite you to visit or contact me with any questions about the Suzuki program and orchestras in the upper elementary and middle school grades. I am looking forward to an exciting year.

Sincerely,

John Middleton, 325-2500 ex 2558 john.middleton@spps.org

On the school website under: "Classrooms" "Arts at Capitol Hill" "Mr Middleton"

Suzuki / Orchestra Sign up

Please keep upper portion for your reference

Student _____ Grade _____ Classroom teacher _____

Parent name(s) _____

preferred e-mail _____

Phone number(s) _____