



January 12, 2023
Volume 11



Western Reserve Suzuki School

www.westernreservesuzuki.com

Dear WRSS Families,

Happy New Year! After a busy fall semester with many performances and events, we are looking forward to getting back into group classes Jan 21. Do check out our WRSS Facebook Page for pictures and video of recent events. We performed at the Akron Children's Hospital Tree Festival, on the Fox 8 Morning Show and more. Coming up this winter, we will prepare for several larger group pieces to be performed at the spring recital. Our spring recital is Saturday, April 29. We will have in-person recital times at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and a virtual option at 4 p.m. Recital takes place at Gloria Dei Church in Hudson. Recital rehearsal sign-ups will be coming in February.

Summer is a great opportunity to attend a music camp, institute, or festival. Check out the SAA website link for Suzuki Institutes around the country. For those who wish to spend a week close to home immersed in the wonderful world of chamber music, WRSS is sponsoring the Western Reserve Chamber Festival at our new location in Solon July 22-26, 2023. Faculty Artists include members of the Cleveland Orchestra, members of the Cavani String Quartet (in residence at the Cleveland Institute of Music) and so many more! There is also 1/2-day Suzuki camp for those not quite ready for Chamber. Registration is limited and on a first come first served basis. See link for further information. Early bird registration ends March 15.

Stay warm and we will see you at lessons and classes!

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Western Reserve
SUZUKI SCHOOL

I Love to Practice!

21 ways to find the joy in practicing with your child.

By Joanne Bath



“I love to practice!” That’s what we all want our children to say. Here are some ideas for how parents can get there without resorting to things they wish they hadn’t! These suggestions can keep you motivated so that you can help your children have the best possible musical experience.

1. Enjoy the process. If you can figure out how to have pleasant practice sessions, you and your children will succeed. This may be the hardest part of the whole process, and perhaps the most crucial. Suzuki said that little children should “practice three minutes, five times a day, with joy.” The main goal for practice should be with joy.

2. Be consistent. If your child knows that you will practice every day at the same time, it is easier for you and more secure for your child. Find a time that works best for your family. If you can, practice for ten or fifteen minutes before school.

3. Don’t negotiate. If you practice only when your child feels like it, you will probably never practice. Get in the habit of regular practice and do

it. Say, “Practicing is what we do in our family.” I have found that “in our family” is one of the greatest phrases you can use. If children believe that something is done in their family, they will do it!

4. Be reasonable—don’t expect perfection. One of the parent’s most important jobs is to show children that life is not a matter of being perfect, but one of trying new things and growing. We do not want children to be overly cautious about learning. We want them to be interested in a variety of things, and willing to accept a challenge.

5. Work for an accomplishment rather than a set amount of time. One of the best ways you can teach your children to be efficient workers is to stop early when they have accomplished the goals for a practice session. If students can learn to reach their goals in less time, they learn efficiency.

6. Do not ask for too much. If you stop the practice session before the child is ready to stop, the child will want to play again the next day. Suzuki said, “Move slowly and never stop.”

7. Gradually lengthen practice time. Children need to slowly gain physical stamina. They will also have more rep-

ertoire as time progresses, and practicing will automatically get longer as they review. Some of my students review a whole book each day.

8. Focus on quality rather than quantity. Small manageable sections can be worked out with a feeling of success. Do one measure thoroughly so the child can really master it. More is not always better. It is better to play fewer pieces and play them well, so move slowly and carefully.

9. Move at your child’s pace. Compare only so you have a general idea of what others are doing. Allow your child to move at a pace that is natural for her.

10. Know what you are doing. You are the home teacher. To learn what you should be doing at home with your child, ask the teacher. Take notes or tape the lesson.

11. Be in charge. The secret to successful practicing is that the parent must be in charge to a greater or lesser degree depending on the child’s age.

12. Focus on what is right. Tell children what they are doing well. Parents often ask if they can help their children successfully if they are not musicians themselves. Actually, non-musician parents often have a much easier time than musician parents. Musicians are trained to find mistakes so that they can correct them, while people who are not musicians tend to hear the music and not the mistakes.

13. Stay positive. Be of good cheer. Avoid statements like, “You’re not even trying,” “That’s terrible,” or, “You’re just trying to irritate me!” If you feel something hurtful coming,



put your hand over your mouth. Do not say something that could destroy weeks of positive growth.

14. Remember the power of praise.

Praise always accomplishes more than criticism. Sometimes it is not just praise but acknowledgment. Acknowledge what the child is doing. Keep a running list of all the wonderful things that your child does. If your child is just starting to read, make the list in large print so the child can read for himself all the things that he did well.

15. Give rewards. From the beginning, try to establish the desire and pattern of practice. You don't have to always give rewards, but if you do at certain times, you'll find that you will get good work from your child. Austin, our six-year-old grandson, will work hard for shiny pennies, which we call "gold coins." I sometimes give him one for everything he does well in a practice session.

16. Consider listening part of practicing. Listening makes the practicing and learning easy. Put your child to bed every night with a tape of the next piece. He will be able to learn the notes to that piece very rapidly, and all you will have to do is show him the bowings. If you are in a time crunch, and simply can't practice one day, listen. If you must choose between practicing and listening, listen. If you go on a camping trip and you can't take the violin, take the tape player, and listen.

17. Give projects and assignments.

Deadlines and performances are very motivational. A performance could be just making a video or audio tape for the grandparents or playing over the telephone. Get children to play as much as they possibly can.

18. Review every day. Most of my students have a review chart. When they are more advanced, they may do three pieces from each book, or they may do one book a day. The students at the end of Book 2 should play all

the pieces in Book 2 every day. This may mean two practice sessions. If your child is in Book 1, he should be practicing all the pieces in Book 1 every day.

19. Play review games. Children love "Lucky Dip." Write cards with the names of all the pieces that the children play and put them in a box. The children draw the name of a piece of music from the box and play the piece.

20. Divide practice sessions in approximate thirds: one-third review, one-third preview, and one-third polishing. Polishing means working on the last three pieces and getting those so that they are performance ready.

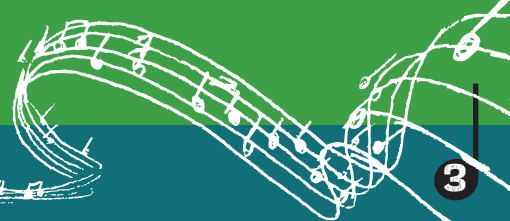
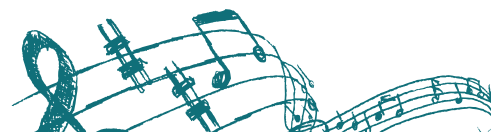
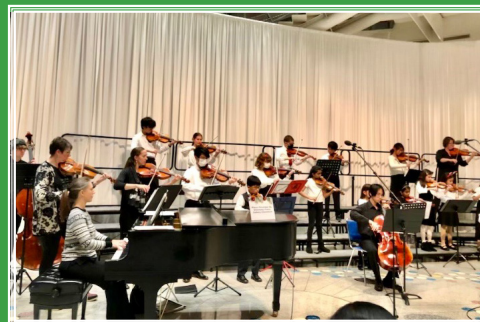
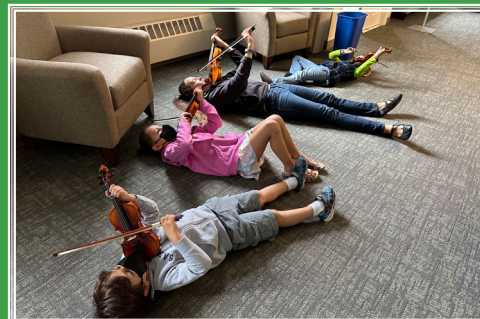
21. Help older children find time to practice. One of the best things you can do is to excuse your teenager from some household tasks in exchange for practicing. Make it easy for them.

This is a very special time that you have with your children. You have your child one-on-one during practice. Sometimes that is the only time that a parent and child have alone together. Treasure your children and their accomplishments. Be understanding, encouraging, and loving and I promise you that you will have success beyond anything you could have ever imagined!

Excerpted from a talk given to parents of the Greenville Suzuki Association, November 1999.

**Little children
should "practice
three minutes,
five times a day,
with joy."**

-Shinichi Suzuki

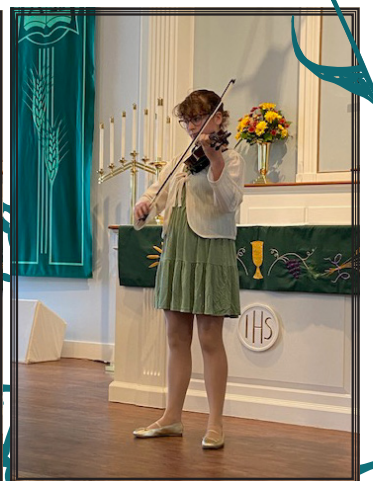




Pictures of our Fall

This fall, we enjoyed our Halloween play-in, the Akron Children's Hospital Tree Festival, our fall formal recital and a performance on the Fox 8 Morning Show. Have news or photos to add? Send your news to Marian Goss at gossmarian@yahoo.com.





Winter/Spring WRSS Events Calendar 2023

Spring Group Classes

(held at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 2113 Ravenna St, Hudson 44236)

Jan 28 – 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Feb 4 – 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Feb 18 – 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

March 4 – 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

March 25 – 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

April 1 – 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Recital Rehearsal:

April 22 – 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Formal Recitals:

4/29 – Live recitals 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., Virtual recital 4:00 p.m.



Western Reserve
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Faculty Feature: Emily Garvin, Violin & Viola

First and foremost, faculty member Emily Garvin believes that teaching music is more than just the technical aspects of how to play. It is about teaching fundamental life skills that will spill out into every aspect of a child's life, making them the best version of themselves.

Emily studied Suzuki violin and viola from a young age in Colorado and Arkansas. She graduated from the University of Michigan with a bachelor's degree in viola performance and received her master's degree from the University of Akron in 2015.

Emily is a registered Suzuki violin and viola teacher with training through book three. She taught violin and viola with the Academy of Music in Norfolk, Virginia for five years before moving back to Akron, Ohio where she currently resides with her husband and three children.

She has attended many festivals around the nation including Sound Encounters, The Interlochen Summer Camp, The Montecito Music Festival, The Kennedy Center Summer Music Institute, and Opera in the Ozarks.

Emily enjoys various other ac-

tivities in her free time including karate, running, reading, biking, and shoe and jewelry making.

