

WCS Strings at a Glance



WHO WE ARE

The mission of WCS Strings, which began in 1981, is to glorify God through music by working together to develop Christian character and gifts to joyfully serve others. WCS Strings students learn violin, viola, and cello using the Suzuki method of instruction.

LESSONS AND GROUP CLASSES

Students receive one private lesson and one group class per week along with other opportunities throughout the year. Elementary group classes meet after school on Thursdays. Middle school and high school orchestras rehearse during the academic day.

BENEFITS OF THE SUZUKI METHOD

The Suzuki method is an internationally known music curriculum and teaching philosophy which aims to create an environment for learning music similar to that of acquiring a native language. Dr. Shinichi Suzuki believed that this environment would also help to foster good moral character. WCS takes this pedagogy and molds it with Christian teaching and values. Some key components of the Suzuki method include: parent involvement, early beginning, listening, ear training, repetition, memorization, encouragement and learning with others. Visit this site to learn more: www.suzukiassociation.org/about/suzuki-method

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

WCS Strings students enjoy a number of performance opportunities including: Pops concert, Christmas concert, Suzuki concert, community outreach concerts, solo recitals, chapels, string quartet gigs, and tours. Students must be taking private lessons in order to participate in any of these orchestras/ensembles.

STRINGS FEES

Strings fees are included in your WCS tuition statement as follows.

Monthly Lesson Fees:

30-minute lesson (15 per semester) \$81/month

45-minute lesson (15 per semester) \$120/month

Semester Group Fee:

Elementary Group Class \$125/semester*

*Billed once at the beginning of each semester (September and February)

Annual Strings Participation Fee (Non-WCS students) \$200/year

GETTING STARTED

Scheduling and Beginning Supplies

Lessons are available before and after school, Saturday mornings, and sometimes during the school day (lunch, study hall). All lesson times during the school day require the approval of the classroom teacher and are subject to the availability of the strings teacher and parent. Beginning supplies (books, CDs, endpin straps, shoulder rests, rosin, etc.) may be purchased online. Teachers will provide information. Prices vary.

Instrument Rental

Please consult with your private teacher prior to renting an instrument to ensure proper sizing. We can recommend local businesses that rent quality instruments. More information about renting can be found by visiting:

www.johnsonstring.com/rental/

www.musicarts.com

www.DavidFrenchMusic.com

PAYMENT POLICIES

BILLING

- Billing for monthly lesson fees and semester group/orchestra fees is handled through the school business office as part of your tuition statement.
- Any drop, add, or lesson length changes must be made at the beginning of semester. Any drops after the 3rd lesson will not be accepted. You are responsible for the entire semester payment. No refunds will be given or partial payment accepted.
- All Pre-Twinkle (beginner) students must remain in the program for the full year – no drops allowed after first lesson. New students may begin lessons at the beginning of the month; they will begin group classes at the beginning of the upcoming semester.

LESSONS AND GROUP CLASSES

- Students receive 15 lessons each semester. Extra lessons will be billed at a rate of \$25 per 30-minute lesson and \$38 per 45-minute lesson.
- Make-up lessons will be given to students who have had less than 15 lessons in a semester due to:
 - Teacher absence. All teacher absences will be made up.
 - Excused student absence. One excused absence will be made up each semester.
 - Snow days. All snow days will be made up.
- Serious injury or long-term disability: If a student is injured in a way that prevents him/her from playing the instrument, lessons will continue as usual to the end of the semester. The teacher will work on music theory, note reading, etc.
- For every absence, the parent must contact the private teacher directly. Please consult your child's teacher as to how and when she would like to be notified. Cancellations drastically affect a teacher's schedule. Please be respectful of your teacher's time. A student's name on an absentee list or a call to the school office does not constitute personal notification.
- If a student must miss a lesson due a scheduling conflict (WCS or other), the student (or parent) must inform the teacher beforehand and must arrange to exchange lesson times with another student. If arrangements have not been made and the student must miss the lesson, it will be considered an unexcused absence (see below).
- Unexcused absences include: lessons missed due to family vacations that do not coincide with WCS vacations, forgetting lessons or student is unprepared, failure to notify the private teacher directly of absence from school, or unresolved after-school work/lesson conflicts.
- Excused absences include: illness and special family circumstances (funerals, etc.) For an absence to be considered excused, the teacher must receive at least 48 hours personal notice (except in emergency). A name on an absentee list or a call to school office does not constitute personal notification. Please call your or email your teacher directly and promptly.

SCHEDULING

- All lesson times need the approval of the classroom teacher (if during school day) and are subject to the availability of the strings teacher and the parent.

Thank you for understanding and adhering to these policies.

CONTACT US

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