

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.

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 about the Suzuki method: www.suzukiassociation.org

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.

STRINGS FEES

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

Monthly Lesson Fees:

- 30-minute lesson (15 per semester) \$90/month
- 45-minute lesson (15 per semester) \$135/month

Semester Group Fee:

- Elementary Group Class \$150/semester*
- *Billed at the beginning of each semester (September/February)

Annual Strings Participation Fee (non-WCS Students only)

- \$225/year per family (Includes registration and facility fees)

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 strap, shoulder rests, rosin, etc.) may be purchased online or through the instrument rental company (see below.).

Instrument Rental

Please consult with your private teacher prior to renting an instrument to ensure proper sizing. WCS has an exclusive rental program with Music & Arts, where the instruments are delivered directly to the school. Music & Arts offers WCS students a special 4-for-1 rate to new students, where you pay the first month and the next 3.5 months are free. Arrange rentals directly at Musicarts.com.

Other suggested rental companies include:

- Johnson Strings, www.johnsonstring.com
- David French Music Co, www.davidfrenchmusic.com

PAYMENT POLICIES:

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

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

- Students receive 15 lessons each semester. Extra lessons will be billed at a rate of \$30/30-minute lesson and \$45/45-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 they 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 to 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 vacation 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 call to the school office does not constitute personal notification. Please promptly call or email your teacher directly.

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

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

SCHEDULING

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

CONTACT US

WCS Strings Office, 508-372-3261, strings@whitinsvillechristian.org