

Denison University Suzuki Program Practice Partner Pages, Page 1

Dear Practice Partners,

I would love for you all to be able to attend Practice Partner Training, but I understand that it's hard to fit extra meetings into your schedules. The Denison University Suzuki Program faculty members agree that you and your students will enjoy more success on your Suzuki journey if you are well trained. To that end, I will be sending the teachers a weekly Practice Partner Page that contains ideas, information, a reading assignment, and questions for you to answer. These pages will also be added to suzuki.denison.edu in case you prefer to look at them on our website. I hope that the information and suggestions you receive through this program will help you on that journey.

Sincerely,
Maryfrances Kirsh

"Let us educate them to have a noble mind, a high sense of value, and splendid ability." —Shinichi Suzuki

Do you have the following supplies?

1. *Nurtured by Love* by Shinichi Suzuki
2. *Beyond the Music Lesson* by Christine E. Goodner
3. Suzuki Volume 1 and reference recording for the instrument being studied
4. Instrument, proper chair, and footstools (as recommended by your teacher)
5. Notebook, folder, or preferred method of note taking (as recommended by your teacher)

Be Present

"The greatest gift you can give your child is your presence." — Alice Joy Lewis, Suzuki teacher trainer

Give your child your full attention during lesson and practice times.

Practice Daily

"Practice only on the days you eat." Shinichi Suzuki

Think more about "when" we can practice today, not "if" we can practice.

Listen to the Reference Recordings

Make daily listening a priority.

Students who listen enough have a clear picture in their heads of how the piece they are learning sounds.

Environment

Belief in the fact that your child can learn the instrument will change the way you practice, what you expect from your child, and your patience level.

Community

You are not alone! You are part of a group of teachers, parents, and students who are all working to make great music, learn to do hard things, and grow as people.

Mastery

Review + Repetition = Mastery over the skills it takes to play our instrument well.

Focus on the Big Picture

Your teacher has a long-term vision in mind for how to get your student from where they are now to more advanced stages of playing their instrument.

Assignments:

1. Begin or reinvent your daily family listening habit. Passively listen to the Book 1 recording at least an hour each day by playing it at meal times, while driving to school or activities, and at bedtime. A "Super CD or Playlist" can be made containing the current working piece, the piece before, and the next piece. This intense focus can help progress.
2. Please read pages 1-36 in *Nurtured by Love* and the preface and introduction in *Beyond the Music Lesson*.
3. Please email your answers to the following questions to kirshm@denison.edu
 - a. Why did you decide on Suzuki study?
 - b. What are three important ideas presented in the reading assignment?
 - c. Do you have any questions or concerns?