



STRINGS (VIOLIN) CLASS AT GCJHS

Dear Parents,

Greenfield-Central Community School Corporation is proud to announce the continuation of the Suzuki Violin class into 2018-19. **Seventh Graders will have the opportunity to sign up for beginning violin**, and begin their journey that can continue with string study into 8th Grade and High School. The mission of the GC Strings Program is to develop admirable character in students while serving the community with excellence in chamber music.

What will Strings Class entail?

7th grade students are eligible to enroll in Suzuki Violin as an elective during the school day. This class will meet daily, and scheduling will be arranged by counselors.

What will students learn? Students will

- learn the basic techniques and skills of playing the violin and reading music
- explore various repertoire including classical, fiddle and folk songs
- have various opportunities to perform throughout the school year
- build their playing ability to be able to continue their musical journey into 8th grade, high school and beyond

How do I sign up my student?

Please complete and return the bottom portion of this letter to your school office no later than Friday, May 18. For more details about the class, getting an instrument, what to expect, please visit our Violin Class website from the GCJHS webpage.....then Music.....then Violin.

Next Steps

- Please plan to join us for our **Annual Strings Celebration Concert & New Student Welcome Ceremony on Tuesday, May 22, 7:00pm** at GC High School Auditorium.
- **Save the date for Required Parent & Student Orientation Meeting on Tuesday, May 29, 7:00pm** at GC Junior High School Band Room. A parent or guardian and student are required to attend this meeting.

I look forward to working with your student to bring a lifelong love of music into your child’s life. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this program or need additional information. My contact information is Sarah Beck, sbeck@gcsc.k12.in.us or phone 317-413-4193.

Warm regards,
Sarah Beck
Sarah Beck, Strings Director

-----Please detach and return to your school office by Friday, May 18 -----

VIOLIN CLASS ENROLLMENT 2018 - 19

Student Name: _____ Parent Phone: _____

Parent Name: _____ Parent E-mail Address: _____

My child has my permission to participate in the 2018-19 GCSC Violin Class. I understand that no changes can be made to this scheduled class until the end of the year.

Parent Signature

**Please return the completed form to your school office by FRIDAY, MAY 18
Or complete the online form listed above**

VIOLIN CLASS: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

What is expected of students?

Students are expected to commit to Violin Class for the entire school year. Starting a musical journey has many ups and downs – the honeymoon phase, followed by the need for hard work, followed by the thrill of performing well. It will be worth it!

What is the time commitment?

Students will attend class daily and will be expected to practice at home daily, an average of 20-30 minutes. “Practice only on days that you eat” – is our motto for success! Students will also have a daily listening assignment approximately 10-20 minutes a day. Listening can be incorporated into your existing daily routine as a way of life (ie – listen while you eat breakfast, while driving in the car, while finishing other homework, etc).

When are performances?

Violin Class will perform at approximately 4 school concerts outside the school day (Holiday Concert, Spring Concert, etc) throughout the year. A schedule will be provided to parents at the beginning of the school year.

What is expected of parents?

Parents can help encourage their child to establish a daily practice and listening routine. Take a few minutes each day to check in with them in an encouraging way by listening to their newest songs and making sure there is time carved out of each day for violin.

Are there any additional costs?

Parents/guardians will be responsible for paying the monthly instrument rental fee, approximately \$25-\$30 per month. A book fee will also be assessed at the beginning of the year to cover class books, CDs and materials (\$55/student). Financial concerns should not prevent you from participating, please contact me with any concerns.

Will Violin continue into High School for my student?

GCCSC values strings enrichment opportunities for students going forward. This may take the form of various string ensembles in the near future, allowing students to further their musical development by either playing in Violin Ensemble or Chamber Music in quartets, trios and duets based on their level of playing.

Can I participate in Choir or Band AND Violin?

Yes, with the understanding that the student will have fewer other related arts classes.

How do I get an instrument?

Please do not obtain an instrument without consulting with your teacher first. A student needs to be fitted for the proper size, and the instrument needs to come from a quality music store, specializing in stringed instruments. Rental instruments will be arranged with your teacher delivered to you at school at the start of class. Rentals are very affordable (\$25-\$30/month) and you can trade up in size as your child grows for no additional fee.

Beware of “VSOs” (Violin-Shaped Objects) you might see at local retailers, or online at Amazon.com or Ebay. A violin needs to be set up by a highly skilled luthier so that the student will have a positive - not frustrating - experience. Many discount sellers trick consumers into purchasing poor quality instruments (think toy quality) that break easily, cannot maintain proper pitch, and are nearly impossible to play. This will be very discouraging to your budding violinist. A properly fitted violin set up by a good luthier will set the ground work for success for your student, and allow your child to create a beautiful tone in the very beginning. You wouldn't send your child to baseball practice with a wiffle bat and ball, and likewise with instruments, quality equipment is critical.

What is the Suzuki Method?

More than fifty years ago, Japanese violinist [Shinichi Suzuki](#) realized the implications of the fact that children the world over learn to speak their native language with ease. He began to apply the basic principles of language acquisition to the learning of music, and called his method the **mother-tongue approach**. The ideas of parent

responsibility, loving encouragement, constant repetition, etc., are some of the special features of the Suzuki approach.

- Suzuki teachers believe that musical ability can be developed in all children.
- Parents play an active role in the learning process.
- Children become comfortable with the instrument before reading music while playing. Beginning songs are learned by ear.
- Technique is taught in the context of pieces rather than through dry technical exercises.
- Pieces are refined through constant review.
- Students perform frequently, individually and in groups.

Why Violin Class?

Many studies have been done proving the positive impact of studying a musical instrument. Some of the highlights are listed below.

It improves your reading and verbal skills

Several studies have found strong links between pitch processing and language processing abilities.

It improves your mathematical and spatial-temporal reasoning.

Music is deeply mathematical in nature. Mathematical relationships determine intervals in scales, the arrangement of keys and the subdivisions of rhythm. It makes sense then that children who receive high-quality music training also tend to [score higher](#) in math. This is because of the [improved](#) abstract spatial-temporal skills young musicians gain.

It helps you learn languages more quickly.

Children who start studying music early in life develop stronger linguistic abilities. They develop more [complex vocabularies](#), a more nuanced understanding of [grammar](#) and higher [verbal IQs](#).

It makes you a better listener, which will help a lot when you're older.

Musical training makes people far more sensitive listeners, which can help tremendously as people age.

It will slow the effects of aging.

But beyond just auditory processing, musical training can also help delay [cognitive decline](#) associated with aging.

It strengthens your motor cortex.

All musical instruments require high levels of finger dexterity and accuracy. The training works out the motor cortex to an incredible extent, and the benefits can apply to a wide range of non-musical skills.

It improves your working memory.

Playing music puts a high level of demand on one's working memory (or short-term memory). And it seems the more one practices their instrument, the stronger their working memory becomes.

It improves your long-term memory for visual stimuli.

Music training can also affect long-term memory, especially in the visual realm.

It enhances your self-confidence and self-esteem.

Several studies have shown how music can enhance children's self-confidence and self-esteem.

It makes you more creative.

Most sources hold that music training [enhances](#) creativity "particularly when the musical activity itself is creative.

SOURCE:

<http://mic.com/articles/110628/13-scientific-studies-prove-music-lessons-were-the-best-thing-your-parents-did-for-you>