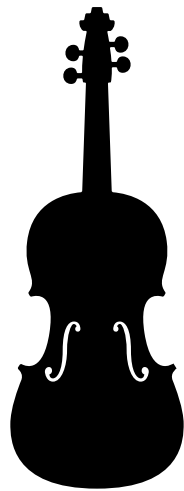




2024-2025 Parent and Teacher Handbook



Welcome to Primavera Place!

We hope that your child's experience learning and making music with friends continues for many years. The teachers of Primavera Place wish for all their students to have the gift of life-long music making. We look forward to building a community that supports you and your child as he or she develops musical skills. We also support Dr. Suzuki's belief that character development goes hand in hand with musical development.

Mission Statement

Primavera Place values the whole person. To this end we seek to provide instruction in a manner that values the student's emotional needs as he or she develops confidence and excellence on the chosen instrument. We believe that all students are capable of developing their musical talents, given excellent instruction and consistent, nurturing guidance at home. All parents receive information and support in achieving these goals.

School Policies 2024-2025

1. Lesson Fees

Individual lessons (32), group lessons (22) and all other expenses for lessons are covered with a monthly tuition over 9 months— September through May. Students will receive 32 lessons during the academic school year (September-May). Lessons beyond the required 4 summer lessons will be charged on a per lesson basis to be charged and received directly to the teachers, not through Primavera Place. Tuition for each of the 9 months (September-May) is due by the 1st of each month. An additional registration fee of \$50 is charged at the beginning of the year to help cover administrative costs, recitals, etc. throughout the year.

Monthly Tuition Charges:

15 minute lessons: \$100

30 minute lessons: \$190

45 minute lessons: \$250

60 minute lessons: \$315

*Registration Fee: Annually, one time fee due September 1st. \$50 per student.

Payment options:

Monthly Payment due by the 1st of each month OR Yearly Payment of tuition—Payments after the 1st of each month incur a \$12 late fee.

A. Zelle Bank Transfer Payment of tuition to the Primavera Place account at FirstBank:
primaverasuzuki@gmail.com

B. Checks payable to Primavera Place. Mail Checks to:
Primavera Place, Attn. Isaac Kay, 1200 N Lincoln Street, Unit 215, Denver, CO 80203

2. Group Lessons

Primavera Place has a policy of participation in group lessons. Group lessons are an integral part of Suzuki Instruction, and all students are expected to participate in the studios' group activities. Studio groups take place on **Monday evenings between 5:00-6:00 pm** at the University Park United Methodist Church.

3. Spring Strings

Spring Strings is an advanced performance group open to students by invitation or audition. Generally students are age twelve or older and play at or beyond the level of the Vivaldi G Minor Concerto in Book 5. Older students who have not finished Book 5 may join Spring Strings on selected repertoire. Rehearsals will follow the normal group lesson calendar unless otherwise notified. Please keep this date open in your calendars. Spring Strings rehearses **Friday afternoons from 4:15-5:15pm** at Luther Strings.

4. Make-up Lessons

There is a strict 24-hour cancellation policy. Lessons cannot be made-up if it is cancelled by the student or parent less than 24 hours in advance. The teacher will have to make-up the lesson if the teacher cancels the lesson less than 24 hours in advance. Each teacher makes their own individual private teaching lesson schedule (for example, starting in August vs. September, which holidays they choose not to teach, etc.) but each will strive to teach 32 lessons during the academic year under normal non-cancellation circumstances. If a lesson can be rescheduled at a time that works for both the student and the teacher, this option will be considered if done so with more than 24 hours notice. PLEASE do not take advantage of this policy. If you can work out a swap with another student, this is fine, but any swaps should work well for both parties. Additionally, Skype/ Zoom lessons are available when the student or teacher is ill, but "well enough" to take a lesson from home, or when other circumstances prevent the student or teacher from getting to the studio for a lesson. There is an additional option where the teacher may request the student to record their working piece and the teacher can then submit comments to improve practice until the next lesson. This is an option at the discretion and availability of the studio teacher.

5. Sickness

In the event that a student or parent is sick and knows less than 24 hours before a scheduled lesson:

Option 1: Sick party must wear a mask and attend an in-person lesson.

Option 2: The lesson should be held virtually using the platform of the teacher's choice.

Option 3: The student/parent may opt to use one of their two (2) sickness make-up lesson passes.

In the event that the teacher is sick and knows less than 24 hours before a scheduled lesson:

Option 1: Sick party must wear a mask and teach the student in-person

Option 2: The lesson should be held virtually using the platform of the teacher's choice.

Teachers reserve the right to not teach a student who is showing visible signs of sickness.

6. Lesson Length

The following lesson times are strongly recommended. This is to enable the student to make maximum progress.

A. Pre-Twinkle: 15 minute

B. Pre-Twinkle—Book One: 30 minute

C. Book Two—Book Four: 45 minute

D. Book Five and on: 60 minute

7. Retaining Lesson Time

Since schedules are filled in the fall, it is expected that all students will take lessons for the entire school year. Withdrawal from the program will be considered permanent unless there are very unusual circumstances such as severe, extended illness. The scheduled lesson time cannot be held open for more than a month. Payment is expected for lessons missed due to vacations that a family might choose to take. Payment must be completed for the entire semester before the discontinuation of lessons. For example, if a student quits in October, payment for November and December is still required. If a student quits in January, payment for February, March, April, and May is still required. Taking private Suzuki lessons is a commitment and Primavera Place teachers are dedicated, career teachers. Everyone's time is valuable and should be treated with utmost respect and care.

8. Recitals

Music is not only about self-expression but also about sharing. Regular recitals give students the opportunity to share what they have learned in a supportive environment. There will be 5-6 opportunities per year for students to participate in a recital. Families are asked to bring a snack of choice to recitals. Students will perform a well-polished piece or pieces--generally 2 to 3 pieces back from the current study piece. Students do not need to perform at each recital, rather as often as they are ready. However, students are always welcome to come and listen to their friends. If the parent and student choose to have a recital external to those provided by Primavera Place, teachers will either pay for a piano accompanist or find an appropriate alternative.

9. Siblings

Siblings may come to lessons if they are able to observe or play quietly. Young siblings should not be unsupervised, but are allowed to read and do quiet activities if they are independent enough to do so.

10. Observations

The Suzuki Method emphasizes and encourages observations from the community, whether it be another teacher, another student, or another parent. The learning environment is to

feel inclusive and supportive. During observation, the student should not feel that they are being judged in any way and should proceed with the lessons as if no visitors were present. Oftentimes prospective parents and students may wish to observe a lesson to get a feel for the Suzuki environment.

11. Graduation Recitals

Students are encouraged to have a recital at the end of each volume of the Suzuki Repertoire. This is done both to encourage polishing of the entire book and to celebrate the accomplishment of graduating to the next level. The recital may take place at the student's home or another appropriate venue. Friends and family are invited by the student's family. Graduation recitals are scheduled by the parents and teacher of the student graduating.

12. Summer Institutes

Suzuki Institutes take place each summer all over the US. These are for families and generally last 4-5 days. Ask your teacher for information regarding these. Attending an Institute is very motivational for students and parents!

13. Summer Lessons

Each teacher will give their students a schedule of available teaching dates in the summer. Those taking additional lessons beyond those covered by the 9 months of tuition, will be charged at a per lesson rate. For maximum progress, students are encouraged to take 6-8 lessons during the summer (2-4 "extra").

14. SAA

The Suzuki Association of the Americas (SAA) is the head organization for all Suzuki activities in the Americas. Joining this organization supports Suzuki education and keeps you informed and connected to all Suzuki activities nationally. For online membership registration go to <https://suzukiassociation.org/about/membership/>

15. SAC Graduation

The Suzuki Association of Colorado has a graduation program for students to participate in. Both the teacher and families must be members to participate. Graduation recordings are collected, listened to by a Suzuki teacher and returned with comments at the graduation recital. All students perform their graduation piece together, receive their evaluation, a medal, and certificate of graduation. Members of SAC receive a bimonthly newsletter as well. Go to <https://www.cosuzuki.org/join-sac>

Family membership is \$15.00 per year.

16. Nondiscriminatory Policy

Primavera Place: A Suzuki Music School admits students of any race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, national and ethnic origin to all the programs available at the school. This includes private instruction, group lessons, and public performances. Music educational activities and lessons are available for students and parents from pre-school through high school. The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, national and ethnic origin in the administration of its education policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs and other school-administered programs.

Primavera Place Teachers:

Isaac Kay, Director
Ronnie Crisp
Leah Quigley
Nasiha Khalil
Chloe Schans
Erin Patterson