



SUZUKI

FWYO Suzuki Handbook

2026–2027

Annual Schedule

The school year calendar is from August 16, 2026 - May 22, 2027. It includes 34 weeks of private lessons, group classes, play-ins, recitals, and other performing opportunities.

Opportunities

FWYO Suzuki offers instruction on violin, viola, and cello for students of all ages and levels of experience. In addition, we encourage you and your child to observe lessons of other students.

- **Individual Lessons** - Each student, with at least one parent present, participates in a weekly lesson of 30, 45, or 60 minutes with an assigned instructor.
- **Group Classes** - All students in the Suzuki program are expected to attend a weekly group class on Tuesdays. Classes are fun, motivating, and unique to the Suzuki Method. Classes provide opportunities to review repertoire, refine technique, expand musicianship, develop ensemble skills, and prepare for performances. Parents and students attend together.
- **Performances** - Students will have opportunities for solo or group performances nearly every month. Experiences in individual lessons and group classes provide opportunities to develop confidence and to prepare for performances at Orchestra Hall and in the community.

Private Lessons Only

We consider ensemble playing to be an important part of musical development; however, older students who are not familiar with the Suzuki Repertoire and are performing with a teacher approved ensemble may register for 45 min. or 60 min. private lessons only

Group Classes Only (for Suzuki students studying with Suzuki teachers not affiliated with FWYO.

Separate registration available to Suzuki students

Age:	4+
Experience:	Must be current student of a Suzuki Association of the Americas registered Teacher

Cell Phone Policy

Unless you are expecting an emergency call, please silence and allow your phone to take messages for later pickup. Interaction with your teacher or your child through music and musical activities will be the focus of our lessons and classes. At the lesson, you may want to video specific instructions for practice.

Attendance/Cancellation/Make-up Policy

Consistent and regular attendance at lessons will contribute to your child's progress. We expect teachers to maintain a regular and consistent lesson schedule. The same is expected of the parent and student. We understand that conflicts will occur but we ask that you attempt to keep cancellations or absences to a minimum.

Teachers are not obligated to make up lessons canceled or missed by the parent/student. It is possible that your teacher can rearrange lesson times if there is enough advance notice. Teachers are always obligated to make up lessons that they cancel, that are canceled due to weather-related school closings, or closings outside of their control.

Make-ups can be scheduled during holidays or break weeks.

Cancellations or delays due to weather will be made by Fort Worth Youth Orchestra officials and are usually consistent with FWISD notices. WFAA is a reliable source for weather issues. Lessons will be made up at the earliest convenient date.

CANCELED GROUP CLASSES WILL NOT BE MADE UP.

With the safety of everyone at FWYO as our key focus, students **MUST** adhere to the FWYO public health protocols. **Students who fail the FWYO health self-screen tool MUST declare an absence and/or cancel the lesson. For the safety of our students, staff, & visitors - Failure to declare an absence for a student who fails the self-screen will result in removal from any and all FWYO Programs without refund.**

Lessons canceled for failing to pass the health self-screen will be made up.

Parent Responsibilities

Parents of beginning students (or those new to the program) will attend a series of Parent Lessons during a four week "trial" period. These lessons are designed to provide an introduction to FWYO Suzuki, an overview of the Suzuki Method and philosophy, and ideas to help you work with your child during home practice. You will schedule Parent Lessons with your teacher before your child attends. In the Parent Lessons, your teacher will suggest strategies to assist you in home practice and preparing for the next lesson. Each teacher has preferences for your note-taking and preparing practice assignments. Your teacher will advise you. Literature regarding practice and development is available. We encourage you and your child to observe lessons and group classes during this time.

Parents will provide appropriate instruments, Suzuki materials such as Suzuki Method books and CDs or downloaded .MP3 files recommended by your teacher. Your teacher will provide a list of recommended sources and advise on when and where to rent or purchase instruments. Do not rent or purchase an instrument until advised.

Practice Commitment

The continued progress of your child depends primarily on your ability to maintain a regular practice schedule at home. Consistent reinforcement through repetition is the best way to maintain techniques learned in the weekly private lesson. The amount of time you spend in practice sessions each day varies and is dependent--among other things--on age, level, and time available. Helping you work with your child towards a common goal and observing pride in the outcome is the most important part of our program. Providing performance opportunities for family and friends is another way you can celebrate achievements.

Recitals and Concerts

We will schedule opportunities for performances—through solo recitals, play-ins, and ensemble concerts. We believe performance is an important part of musical and social development. Participation in at least one (but not limited to one) solo recital and one ensemble concert per year is expected. You and your teacher will determine when recital participation is appropriate. Your teacher will arrange a rehearsal time with an accompanist prior to a solo recital date. This will usually be scheduled during Group Class time.

Dress for solo recitals

“Party Clothes” is a common description--slacks and collared shirts are appropriate as well as dresses or skirts (skirt length should be to the knee or longer). Shoes with low heels are preferable.

Dress for Group or Ensemble Concerts

Black skirts/pants with a white or black blouse or shirt. Black socks or stockings and shoes are preferred.

Student Code of Conduct & FWYO Suzuki Handbook

Students will be subject to the Fort Worth Youth Orchestra (FWYO) Student Code of Conduct & FWYO Suzuki Handbook, which contains these policies as well as numerous other policies regarding conduct. In particular, the FWYO is a Drug, Tobacco, and Alcohol free institution. As well, students are expected to conduct themselves appropriately as well as dress appropriately for lessons, performances, and other FWYO functions. As well, students and parents/guardians are expected to treat all FWYO staff members as professionals and abuse will not be tolerated.

Failure to comply with the Fort Worth Youth Orchestra (FWYO) Student Code of Conduct & FWYO Suzuki Handbook may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from any and all FWYO programs. Students and parents/guardians who are removed from the program for disciplinary reasons will not be refunded any tuition and fees already paid. Those who are behind on payments and removed for cause may be sent to collections.

Contact

Your main point of contact with the program will be your instructor who will provide you with contact information.

For questions about other FWYO Suzuki programs, billing information, or to report disputes or other concerns, please contact the FWYO Suzuki Program Coordinator.

Patty Purcell

FWYO Suzuki Program Coordinator

patty.purcell@fwyo.org

817.923.3121 x14

Payment

Tuition for each student is payable by check or credit card. Tuition for the year can be paid in full or divided into two or ten payments. Tuition due dates are

Plan Type	Due
100% Paid in Full	100% due Aug. 22, 2026
50% Semester Payments	50% due Aug. 22, 2026 & Feb. 2, 2027
10% Monthly Payments	10% due by 25th of each month (Aug. - May.)

Payment plans to help accommodate your personal financial situation may be arranged by contacting Alice Liu at accounting@fwyo.org or by calling 817-923-3121 x17.

Financial Aid

Limited financial aid is available to qualified students for all FWYO Suzuki programs. Students seeking financial aid must submit an application that includes information about their household and income situation. Applications can be found at fwyo.org/financialaid

Reminders

Reminders will come from your teacher via email or another agreed upon method.

For emergency reminders, please sign up for text reminders using remind 101.

Text @FWYOsuzuki to 81010 to sign up.

Calendar at a Glance

Week of Aug. 16	Lessons Begin
Tuesday, Aug. 25	Group Classes Begin
Nov. 22 - Nov. 28	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 20 - Jan. 9	Winter Break
Mar. 14 - Mar. 20	Spring Break

Tuition and Fees for 2026-2027

All students will be assessed a \$40.00 FWYO Annual Registration Fee

LESSONS AND GROUP CLASSES OR EVENTS (34 weeks for Violin, Viola, Cello)

34 weeks x 30 minutes + Group Class	\$1820
34 weeks x 45 minutes + Group Class	\$2440
34 weeks x 60 minutes + Group Class	\$2920

PRE-TWINKLE OR NEW PARENT LESSONS – (Violin, Viola, Cello)

4 week Pre-Twinkle/New Parent Orientation (30 Mins)	\$275
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Following orientation:

\$40 Registration fee + Standard pro-rated rates (see above)

PRIVATE LESSONS ONLY (Violin, Viola, Cello)

This option is available for older students (minimum age 13) who come to the program with little or no previous Suzuki Repertoire background (includes option to participate in FWYO Suzuki Recitals and recital preparation rehearsal with an accompanist).

34 weeks x 45 minutes	\$2150
34 weeks x 60 minutes	\$2690

SUZUKI GROUP LESSONS ONLY

This option is available for violin, viola, or cello students of Suzuki registered teachers who are teaching outside of FWYO Suzuki.

34 Weeks of Group Lessons & Performances	\$425
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All prices subject to change