

SPRING BRANCH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Elementary Strings Program Information

Overview- Parents enter their child in this program only if they agree to the main component: to attend the lessons and guide their child's home practice. The program is open to SBISD students at the campus in which they are enrolled in kindergarten through third grade at the beginning level and to returning students through fifth grade. This Suzuki-based program teaches a specific, cumulative curriculum through large and small group experiences, rote instruction, and multiple performance opportunities. The Suzuki literature is compiled utilizing a step-by-step approach and thus *no step can be skipped*.

COST- Tuition for enrollment of one child for one year is \$775 payable in a lump sum on or before September 15th. Returning students must enroll in May for the following year (\$100 first payment). Enrollment represents a commitment to pay full tuition. An individual program may assess an activity fee to cover refreshments, sashes, or other options.

TEACHER OBLIGATIONS- Teachers are trained string specialists with a working knowledge of Suzuki literature and pedagogy. They organize large and small group classes and plan performances. A minimum of one parent orientation meeting will acquaint parents with the Suzuki design and its value to the student. There are no makeups for missed lessons caused by student absence, field trips or other campus conflicts. Makeups will be scheduled if there is a school closure due to weather or if a teacher must miss for personal reasons.

COURSE CONTENT- This 22 week program includes a weekly 45 minute after school group class in which students are assigned according to playing level. A second weekly lesson may be either a 15 minute individual lesson or a small homogeneous group, either of which will provide opportunity for the student to be taught and heard individually.

This program is performance oriented and students meeting the qualifications may perform several times throughout the year. Some of these events may combine with Elementary String programs from other schools:

- A fall event (Freaky Friday), usually around Halloween
- Winter concert
- Spring Solo Festival
- Celebration concert
- Spring Concert

End-of-semester performances in December and May are held at the home school and feature the progress of students within that school's program. Other events, such as a workshop or some special performance are often added to the five standard events and may vary from year to year.

PARENT OBLIGATIONS- Parents will provide the students with an instrument, the appropriate Suzuki books, and coordinated reference recordings. At home, the student will need a cd player in order to listen to the recordings. In addition, the parent must help the student organize practice time.

This is an instructional program worthy of the child's involvement and the parents' investment. A key concept of Suzuki study is parental involvement in which the teacher and parent work together to ensure student's success. While it is the obligation of the teacher to involve the parent, it is a reciprocal obligation of the parent to function as teacher at home. In order for this to occur, the parent must remain informed and involved.

The way to assure a student's success is for the parent to attend weekly lessons and group classes at school, take notes, and guide home practice. If parental attendance at a lesson is not possible, the teacher and parent need to make a special plan so that the student is not left to manage alone. If this cannot be done, do not enter into this program.

ELEMENTARY STRINGS ENROLLMENT FORM

NEW SBISD-ENROLLED STUDENTS

2019-2020

To accept the parent responsibilities as described in the Elementary Strings Program Information sheet, and to enroll one child for the coming year, complete this form and attach the tuition (check, money order, or credit card only). Return form and non-refundable payment to the SBISD Fine Arts Office.

Student's Name: _____ Gender: Male Female

Address: _____ Apt: _____

City, State: _____ Zip: _____

SBISD School: _____ Grade next year: _____

1. Mother or Legal Guardian Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Business Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Mother or Legal Guardian Email: _____

2. Father or Legal Guardian Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Business Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Father or Legal Guardian Email : _____

Tuition for this program is a non-refundable \$775.00 with check/money order or credit card.

Payment is due Sept. 15th, 2019

By Credit Card: <https://elemstrings.springbranchisd.com>

Make your check or money order payable to: SBISD Fine Arts. Cash is not accepted.

Send payment with this form to:

SBISD Fine Arts
c/o Rusty Hess
901 Yorkchester
Houston, Tx 77079

If there is a question, call Rebecca Cruz, the administrative assistant who processes these payments. If you have questions, she can be reached at 713-251-1996. If no answer, call 713-251-1995.

I understand there are no refunds even if my child can no longer attend the sessions.

PARENT or LEGAL GUARDIAN SIGNATURE _____ Date _____

Parent or Legal Guardian printed name _____

NOTE: There may be a separate activity fee that pays for sashes, refreshments, social activities, piano accompaniment, and other expenses which enhance but are separate from instruction.

Elementary String Teacher's Name _____