

New Ulm Suzuki School of Music

Newsletter

August 2018

Welcome Back

Welcome back to a new year at the New Ulm Suzuki School of Music. All your teachers are looking forward to a wonderful year of beautiful music. Your individual and group lesson teachers are working hard on their schedules. If you have not been contacted about lesson you will be very soon.

NUSSM Teachers

Paula Anderson – Violin/Viola – Dir. of String program – paula.anderson@newulmsuzuki.org

Judy Martens – Piano – Dir. of Piano program – judy.martens@newulmsuzuki.org

Carolyn Borgen – Bass teacher – carolyn.borgen@newulmsuzuki.org

Shirley Hanneman – Piano teacher – shirley.hanneman@newulmsuzuki.org

Ruth Einstein – Cello teacher – ruth.einstein@newulmsuzuki.org

Mark Wamma – Violin/Viola teacher – mark.wamma@newulmsuzuki.org

Adrian Smith – mid-level note-reading teacher – smithar@mlc-wels.edu

Janelle Munson has decided to not return as one of our piano teachers. She was also the note-reading teacher for the piano students. We truly appreciate her enthusiasm, dedication and knowledge that she shared with the students over the years. We wish her well and hope she can come to some recitals to enjoy the progress her students will make.

Board Members

We are currently looking for 2 new board members. We want to thank Kate Carlovsky and Anna Friese for their work over the past years. We truly appreciate all the input you have given and time you have shared with the NUSSM.

If you have ideas, concerns, thoughts that you want to share you can contact any of these board members at any time. You can also talk with your teacher or Judy or Paula. Many avenues to go, so don't be shy.

Laura Martens – Board President - martenslr@gmail.com

Marka Stocker – Treasurer – office@newulmsuzuki.org

Leah Matzke – Secretary - matzkemedia@gmail.com

Dorie Tess – board member - dorie.tess@gmail.com

Katie Gag – board member - katie.gag@icloud.com

2 spots open for new members

Group Lessons/Note-Reading classes

We are going to try something new this year for our note-reading classes. The classes will not be instrument specific and will put all students together. It will be a more general music class – note reading, rhythm, etc... and the playing of the instruments will happen at their group lesson. All students will get a note-reading class from the very beginning – until they reach Allegro Strings. We hope this will enhance the feeling of community in our school from the very beginning! Paula (string students) and Judy (piano students) will be sending out the group lesson schedule. Just find your students name and you should be good to go. We are looking forward to this new schedule and think it will be a wonderful addition!

Parent Classes

Are you a new parent to our program? Are you a veteran parent struggling with practice ideas? We will be offering parent classes to help with all of that. For all parents, new or veteran, we are having 1 group lesson time that will be parents only. For all families that have joined in the past 3 years we will have one additional parent meeting on September 17 from 4-5.

September 10

- All group lessons (all instruments) will have parent meetings – come at your child's group lesson time – you will receive this schedule from your group lesson teacher shortly
- ALLEGRO STRINGS – 6:00-7:00 – all parent meeting – bring along dresses and ties so we can resize them

September 17

- 4:00-5:00 Group will have parent meeting -
- All other group lessons and Allegro Strings as scheduled

We will be offering child care during this time – but thought we wanted to start our year off with parents only. Your role in your child's success is vital and we want to give you all the support and help you need. Please plan to come and find out more about the Suzuki method – our programming – tips and tricks to make this a journey you will all enjoy!

Following that, we will be having a monthly Parent Class for all parents during group lesson times. These will often be a round table discussions so bring your questions, concerns and we will find help. It is so often found that you aren't the only one struggling with practice or a child that cries, or a child that plays non-stop. It feels good to not be alone. Come and get support but also give support to others.

School-wide Incentive Program

We are going to have 2 school-wide incentive programs this year. Here are specifics for the first one. We will talk more about this at group lessons so keep your ears open.

Fall Incentive Program will be to increase our listening throughout the school. A huge part of success in a Suzuki program is fine tuning your listening skills. We will be sending out specifics at a later date – but watch for details and start thinking now about how you can increase your listening for your students(s). Start date will be October 1.

100 Day Club!

We are once again implementing our 100 day club. We will have many options at registration night for tracking sheets. Mark off your days as you practice and work towards 100 days straight!! It only counts if you keep practicing consecutive days. You and your teacher will decide what that means for your student. You will be amazed at the improvement of lessons, group lessons, overall enjoyment. We will be handing out ribbons at every recital for every student that reaches 100 days and special awards at 1000 and 2000.

Recitals

We have three recitals/year. We wanted to just reiterate why we think that this is such an important part of our programming.

- 1) Recitals are a wonderful celebration of accomplishment
- 2) The frequency helps build confidence and poise.
- 3) When we choose recital pieces we choose pieces that the student is very comfortable with – this helps ensure success (which breeds more success)
- 4) Playing for others is a wonderful way to build an attitude of giving and sharing
- 5) Even mistakes during recitals builds character and shows the student they will be just fine – even when things don't go according to plan

Some things to remember about our recitals.

- 1) Invite family and friends – we love to fill our space
- 2) Attire should be dressy/comfortable (keep in mind your instrument)
- 3) Bring treats to share with others – the kids look forward to the celebration after they are finished
- 4) All recitals are at UCC
- 5) We are going to 4 recitals each time this year so as to not have any one of them too long (hoping for under an hour for each) time options will be 1:30, 3:00, 4:30 and 6:00. Choose what fits your schedule the best.
- 6) Check the calendar for recital dates –All recitals are on Sundays.

Volunteer Hours

This is just a reminder for all families. Each family is required to have 5 hours of volunteer time each year. There are volunteer opportunities that you will be made aware of throughout the year. Choose the ones that fit into your schedule. If you choose to pay out your volunteer hours it is \$20/hour. This would also apply for any hours that were not fulfilled during the school year (Sept. 1-August 31).

Spring Gala

Every year we have our annual fundraiser to raise dollars for scholarships. These funds go directly to our students to help cover costs for lessons, summer camps, institutes and various other music endeavors.

We are going to be changing it up this year – please watch for more information.

Music Experiences

Each year we try to encourage musical experiences for our students by getting group tickets to events such as concerts, plays, musicals, etc.... Do you have some ideas? We would love to hear them. Please email any ideas you have to office@newulmsuzuki.org. We look forward to hearing from you!!