

Suzuki Public Charter School



“academics enriched with music”

Fact Sheet: Suzuki Charter School Society

Purpose: To speak with a unified voice to key stakeholders about Suzuki Charter School in Edmonton, Alberta.

Key Messages:

- ✚ Suzuki Charter School in Edmonton is the first of its kind in the world. This educational choice is possible due to Alberta’s commitment to charter school opportunities.
- ✚ Suzuki Charter School is dedicated to providing academics enriched with music based upon the Suzuki approach.
- ✚ The education process involves three equally important participants; child, teacher and parent – **The Suzuki Triangle**. Parents are actively involved in their child’s educational process.
- ✚ The Suzuki approach is to provide a nurturing environment, supported by dedicated and talented teachers. Teachers are important role models and facilitators of learning.
- ✚ Learning is based in the mastery approach, which has three important parts:
 - ✓ Does the student understand what is being taught?
 - ✓ A cycle of practice and immediate feedback is repeated until the desired level of mastery has been achieved.
 - ✓ Continuous review results in the automatic carrying out of a skill.

- ✚ We believe every student has the potential and capacity to learn; with the Suzuki approach awakening each student's desire to learn.
- ✚ The Suzuki approach creates positive, high expectations for the student.
- ✚ We believe that children learn at different rates, and with different learning styles.
- ✚ Encouragement, praise and cooperation are key motivators for each student.
- ✚ We believe that cognitive learning is enhanced by a strong auditory foundation. Students use both visual and auditory modalities to reinforce cognitive learning.
- ✚ Music instruction is reinforced with group lessons at school which encourages motivation and commitment.
- ✚ Children attending the Suzuki Charter School must enroll in individual Suzuki music lessons outside of school. This individual music instruction assists the student in gaining mastery of the instrument and serves as the foundation for the integration of music within the academic program.

Q and A

Q. Do I have to pay extra fees to attend Suzuki Charter School?

A. There are fees to help cover costs for such things as replacement textbooks, a school t-shirt and agenda, a kinder-cooking fee (if in kindergarten) and lunch supervision fees (if staying for lunch). Field trip fees are charged on a cost-recovery basis.

Q. Does my child need to go through testing or an audition to be in Suzuki Charter School?

A. No. We believe that every child can learn using the Suzuki Approach.

Q. What instrument choices are offered at the school?

A. The choice of musical instruments includes the following: piano, violin, viola, cello, double bass, guitar, and flute.

Q. Are parents and children able to choose which instrument to learn to play?

A. Choice is sometimes limited by the capacity of the group lessons offered at the school. Therefore, a student's first choice of instruments may not be available.

Q. Why is Suzuki Charter School rated so high in the Fraser report and Alberta accountability pillar results?

A. Suzuki students have performed well on the provincial achievement tests which forms the primary basis of comparison for the Fraser report. We believe that the student success at school is a result of the Suzuki Approach to academics.

Q. Will Suzuki Charter School be moving to a larger facility and if so, when and where?

A. Yes. The board is hoping to find a larger facility in the greater Hardisty area for September 2010.