

Information for violin lessons with Emma Otto

Timing: Half-hour lessons occur once per week at a designated time slot which will be decided based on my schedule and what time works for students/parents.

Cost: \$15 per half-hour lesson. Payment (cash or check) should be brought to each lesson.

Items needed: A violin of the proper size, appropriate Suzuki method book and CD, and a shoulder rest (or sponge, etc. – this will vary from one student to another). Other materials, such as a metronome or additional sheet music, may be necessary for higher levels.

Expectations of the student:

- Practice daily. The amount of practice time will depend on the level and age of the student and should be discussed with the parents and me.
- Bring your instrument, accessories (shoulder rest, etc.), assignment sheets, and music to all lessons.

Expectations of the parents:

- Please arrive on time to all scheduled lessons and notify me if any timing conflicts arise.
- Try to encourage your student to practice regularly and to enjoy making music. The violin is not a particularly easy instrument to learn, and it takes several weeks for most beginning students to produce a pleasant sound. Be patient, particularly as they start, and try to be supportive of their efforts even when their musical quality has not yet reached its full potential.

The most important thing I can tell students and parents is that, though learning the violin should be an enjoyable experience, it can be challenging at times. Just 1 year after I started playing violin, I became discouraged and told my mom I wasn't sure whether I wanted to continue. She lovingly sympathized with my struggle, but asked me to continue playing for another month before I quit. During that time, I experienced breakthroughs that made the learning process much more fun and I choose to keep playing. That one conversation with my mom kept me on track with the violin and completely changed my future: I even became a music major in college.

Expectations of me:

- I will be on time to all scheduled lessons and well prepared to teach each lesson.
- I will assign music and exercises that challenge my students, but that are appropriate for their level of ability and musical experience.
- I will encourage my students to develop a better understanding of music as a form of personal expression and to enjoy playing violin.
- I will pray for each one of my students often and be a good example to them in my speech, conduct, and work ethic.

My contact information:

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