

Information for Suzuki Guitar at Moravian College

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Things You Will Need

These are some of the bare necessities that you will need for your child to learn to play the guitar. I have cut this down to be as minimal as possible so it will be manageable for everyone.

- Guitar - Go to <http://www.suzukidad.com/guitar-gear-for-suzuki-students/childrens-guitars/> for information on sizing and companies that sell small guitars.
- Footstool - Any will work, no need for a 'child size' footstool.
- Suzuki Guitar Volume 1 Book - Your child won't be reading from it much, but it is helpful to write in rhythms and other things to help you out at home.
- Suzuki Guitar Volume 1 Cd - This will help your child learn the songs much faster. Listen to it as much as possible. Play it in the car, sing along with it, practice clapping the Twinkle Variations.
- Tuner - I recommend the clip on style, like the Snark.
- Metronome - Can be a physical metronome, an app, or a free metronome online.
- Guitar Humidifier - Necessary for the dry winters.
- Something To Take Notes On - Can be a notebook, tablet, or anything else. There will be a lot of new information to learn and writing it down is one of the best ways to remember it.
- Something To Sit On - In individual lessons it won't be necessary to bring a chair for your child. In group lessons you may need to. Make sure you have an appropriate size seat for your child for home and group lessons.
- Nails - Okay, this one may seem silly, but really, stop cutting your child's 'plucking' nails. For most, this would be the right hand. Also, if you don't already have a file/buffing tool I recommend that. If you need an example I can show you.
- Nurtured by Love by Suzuki - This book, written by Suzuki, goes into incredible depth and through some of the history of this method. This is a must read for all Suzuki parents.

Some Basic Rules

I'm sure some of this is common sense, but here are the basic rules of the lessons.

Make-Up Lessons

I will make-up up to 2 lessons each semester. I need 24 hours notice before your lesson and then we can reschedule. There are 3 ways to make up a lesson:

- 1 is to add it on to the end of the semester,
- 2 is to have it on another day when we are all available during the semester, and
- 3 is to add time to the beginning or end of a lesson until it adds up to the missed time.

If this is confusing I can better explain it in person. If I do not receive 24 hours notice or if you are more than 10 minutes late, the lesson will not be made up. This is Moravian's policy. If I need to miss a lesson for any reason, I will make it up. Due to the way the College processes the money, I can not return money for a missed lesson. Also, group lessons can not be made-up for obvious reasons.

Rescheduling Lessons

If for some reason you need to change the day or time of your lessons we can discuss this. It is a big ordeal trying to reschedule lessons so I view it as an emergency only option. I'm not saying it's

impossible, but it can be difficult. Please note that this all applies only to individual lessons. Group lessons will **not** be rescheduled. It is difficult enough trying to figure out what rooms are available at what time for certain students and having to contact other teachers to see if they are using that room, and then there could always be a random make up lesson by another teacher happening because they didn't know my schedule changed, etc., etc. (I'm sure you get the picture). Now try adding in the fact that only large rooms can be used for groups and you have to deal with multiple family schedules at one time. So, to summarize, individual lessons could be rescheduled, but I can't make any promises, and group lessons will not be rescheduled.

Individual and Group Lessons

You can sign up for (individual lessons) or (individual and group lessons). You can **not** take just group lessons, even if you have another private teacher. This is due to having problems in the past with other teachers not teaching music correctly for group lessons. I will not waste time in a group lesson going over something that should be done in an individual lesson.

The Parent's Responsibility

If you are reading this, you are likely the parent of a child taking Suzuki Guitar lessons. This means you have certain responsibilities in the lesson and at home.

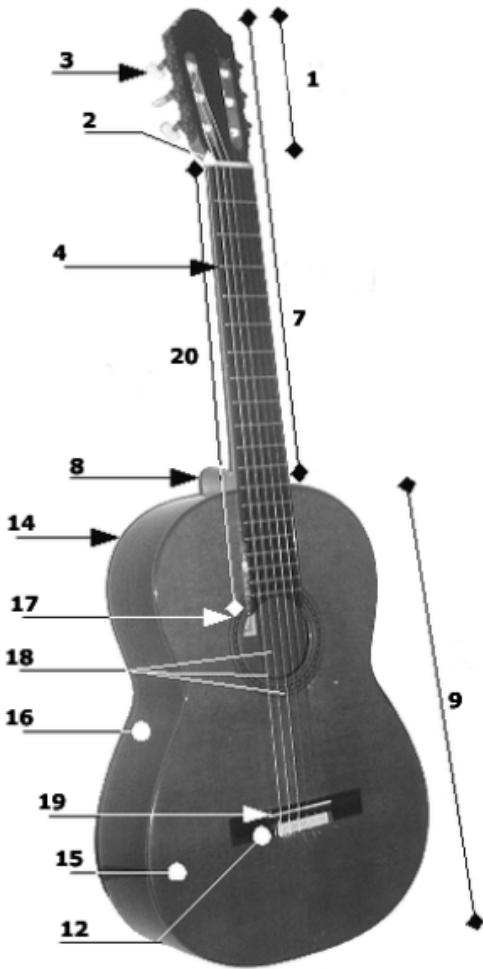
The Lessons: In the lesson you are the secretary. Your main job is to take notes and remember what needs to be accomplished at home. If you have questions, feel free to ask. If you want me to sketch something out, I can do that. If you want to take a picture or video, go for it.

At Home: Outside of the lesson you become the teacher. You are armed with your notes and know what you need to do. Your responsibilities here include playing the Suzuki Cd's (as well as other high quality music), tuning the guitar, helping the child in their daily practice and being positive. Even if you only accomplish one little thing in a practice session, that's one more than if you didn't do it at all. Being positive in the early stages of Suzuki can be tough. It can be dreadfully slow at times. You keep waiting until your child can even start playing Twinkle and it seems like it will never happen. You are not alone. This is how Suzuki works across all instruments. We will work on getting the perfect posture, tone, and technique first, so when we start Twinkle it should sound beautiful.

The Student's Responsibility

The child's responsibility will grow through time. Initially they are responsible for practicing whatever we may be working on. When they are young, usually the parent is responsible for the guitar. As the child grows, they can be responsible for carrying, packing, and unpacking the guitar. Then they can start tuning the guitar on their own. This list will continue to grow to include changing the strings, practicing on their own and eventually becoming completely responsible for all things related to the guitar and music.

Possibly the most asked question of all time is, "How much should we practice?" My answer is this: Everyday. As long as you and your child can do some practicing everyday, I will be happy. It can be 10 minutes before you rush off to school, or it can be 4 hours after dinner. It all depends on how long your child can concentrate for and what their goals are. If you just want your child to gain responsibility and discipline from the instrument, then they don't need to practice for hours and hours. If they have a goal to become a world famous virtuoso guitarist, then they should be doing more than 10 minutes a day.



Parts of typical classical guitars, numbered

- 1** Headstock
- 2** Nut
- 3** Machine heads (or pegheads, tuning keys, tuning machines, tuners)
- 4** Frets
- 7** Neck
- 8** Heel
- 9** Body
- 12** Bridge
- 14** Bottom deck
- 15** Soundboard
- 16** Body sides
- 17** Sound hole, with rosette inlay
- 18** Strings
- 19** Saddle (Bridge nut)
- 20** Fretboard

9 Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classical_guitar