The Suzuki Music School of Arkansas was founded at the University of Arkansas in 1977.

SMSA currently provides musical instruction in cello, double bass, flute, guitar, harp, piano, organ, viola, and violin to approximately 200 students ranging in age from 3-adult.

SMSA is a non-profit organization funded entirely by student tuition, private donations and fund-raising efforts.

SMSA is affiliated with and housed by the University of Arkansas.

The University of Arkansas generously allows SMSA the use of their facilities for programs and special events. The U of A also provides the assistance necessary to hold monthly recitals at the Walton Arts Center.

All teachers have received training through courses provided by the Suzuki Association of the Americas.

SMSA holds membership with the Suzuki Association of the Americas.

The Suzuki Association of the Americas Mission Statement

The Suzuki Association of the Americas aspires to improve the quality of life in the Americas through Suzuki education. We seek to create a learning community, which embraces excellence and nurtures the human spirit.

The Suzuki Music School of Arkansas Mission Statement

The purpose of the Suzuki Music School of Arkansas is to foster the development of ability in all students regardless of age, race, and special needs. We share the values of the Suzuki Association of the Americas: teaching with integrity and respect for families and colleagues, building community, pursuing excellence, and preserving the Suzuki legacy of developing noble character through the nurturing of musical ability in a loving environment.

Basic Elements of the Suzuki Method
1. **Listening.** Children learn by listening and imitating. Suzuki children repeatedly listen to pieces they will be learning. The student’s success is directly related to the amount of time spent listening to the repertoire.

2. **Parents As Partners.** Suzuki parents are active participants in their children’s musical education. They attend lessons and practice with their children daily. Dr. Suzuki believed that parents create the desire to learn in their children. Parents work closely with their teachers to provide the optimum learning environment by trusting the teacher, taking notes during lessons, and following through with assignments.

3. **Nurturing Environment.** Suzuki parents and teachers nurture their children with love and respect.

   “Where love is deep, much can be accomplished.”—Shinichi Suzuki

4. **Repetition.** Reviewing pieces that have been mastered is a key element to refining technique, improving tone, learning self-expression, and the joy of making music.

5. **Small Steps.** Each skill must be mastered before proceeding to the next. Suzuki teachers guide their students at a rate that encourages mastery of skill. Suzuki parents must wait for their teachers to guide them.

6. **Group Lessons and Private Lessons.** Regular attendance to weekly private lessons and group lessons is essential to a student’s success.

7. **Repertoire.** All students learn from a core curriculum. Students are taught the same pieces, allowing them to play together and learn from one another. Suzuki students from all around the world have a common bond when they come together to play concerts. Dr. Suzuki selected pieces from the standard repertoire of the great masters including Bach, Mozart, and Beethoven. These pieces were selected to facilitate specific skills needed to master the instrument. Teachers are encouraged to supplement the core Suzuki repertoire.

8. **Teacher Training.** The Suzuki Association of the Americas educates and trains teachers. The quality of this instruction is exceptional and all teachers are expected to take courses and continually expand their skill.

**Registration**

Please see the Register page on the website for registration information.

**SCHOOL CALENDAR**

Please see the Resources page for an updated SMSA calendar.

**Private Lessons**

Weekly private lessons are scheduled with your private instructor.
Private lessons are 30, 45, or 60 minutes in length depending on the student’s age and readiness.

Parents are required to bring a notebook to record instructions and assignments. Recording each lesson is encouraged to provide the student with a model for correct pitch, rhythm and tone production.

**Attendance Policy**

**If a student misses a lesson, make-up lessons will not be given.** Therefore, if you know in advance that you will miss a lesson, please trade lesson times with another student and notify your teacher of the change. If the Fayetteville School District is closed due to snow, the Suzuki Music School of Arkansas will also close. Make-up lessons will be given for all snow days. Lessons missed by your teacher will also be made up.

**Group Lessons**

Group lessons are essential to the complete education of the Suzuki student. Group class gives your child a chance to meet other children making music and to acquire the performance skills and ensemble skills necessary to becoming a successful musician. If you must miss a group class, please call your group class instructor prior to missing that class. See the SMSA calendar on the Resource Page for group class schedules.

**Solo Recitals**

Monthly student recitals are held in the Starr Theater at the Walton Arts Center. All performances at the Walton Arts Center should represent your highest level of playing. Your private teacher will help you choose the piece to be performed and prepare you for the performance. Please dress appropriately: for example, dress shoes, nice slacks, dresses, or pant suits. SMSA teachers will assign an accompanist for each recital. Please give the accompanist your music in advance. The accompanist will be available to rehearse before the recital by appointment only. Accompanists should be paid $27 per hour for additional rehearsals or private book recitals.

**Parking**

Parents may park in the front circle drive or in the new University of Arkansas Harmon Avenue Parking Facility. Please do not park on the street or in the apartment parking areas, as your car will be towed and/or ticketed.

**Spring Festival Concerts**

Every year the students at SMSA perform in a series of final concerts for the school year. Students are given the opportunity to perform on a professional stage in a formal concert setting.

**Friends of Suzuki**
Friends of Suzuki is the parent organization of SMSA. Friends of Suzuki is organized into committees that conduct business and organize volunteer activities for SMSA. Friends of Suzuki is a necessary and integral part of our school. Their efforts have provided the resources necessary for student scholarships, teacher training, school instruments, workshops, special events, hospitality, etc. The purpose of Friends of Suzuki is to assist with fund-raising, community outreach, facility enhancement, concert production, etc. All parents are encouraged to join one of the standing committees of Friends of Suzuki. Contact the SMSA office at smsa@uark.edu or 479-575-5250 for additional information.

**Scholarships**

SMSA, in cooperation with Friends of Suzuki, awards scholarships to students based on financial need. To the extent that funds permit, SMSA and Friends of Suzuki offer financial aid to qualifying students in the form of reduced tuition. Financial aid, based on need, is determined using a sliding scale that considers family financial resources and number of dependents.

Guidelines used by the scholarship committee may be found at [www.arkidsfirst.com/elg.htm](http://www.arkidsfirst.com/elg.htm). Limitations in the amounts of aid available may mean that not every student with a demonstrated need can be helped. All applications received by the stated deadlines will be reviewed by members of the Friends of Suzuki Scholarship Committee.

To maintain privacy for scholarship applicants, all personal identifying information will be withheld from the Scholarship Committee.

Eligibility for SMSA Scholarships is limited to students who have completed at least one year of study at SMSA.

Recipients must reapply at the beginning of each new semester. Any scholarships awarded are applied toward tuition reduction and are not given to students as a cash award.

The acceptance of financial assistance from SMSA carries with it an obligation on the part of the students to attend private and group lessons on a regular basis and work diligently on making progress in his/her primary instrument. Financial aid may be withdrawn at any time if, in the judgment of the student’s private teacher and the SMSA Director, the recipient fails to maintain the minimum standards which are expected by recipient’s teacher and SMSA.

Recipients of financial aid are expected to assist in school events and fundraisers and may be asked to perform on behalf of SMSA.

Contact your private instructor or the SMSA director at smsa@uark.edu or 479-575-5250 to receive a scholarship application.