



# DOOLEY

## Frequently asked questions about School District 54's Early Instrumental Music Program

**Q What are the goals of the Early Instrumental Music Program?**

**A** The goals of the Early Instrumental Music Program are

- To provide high quality violin instruction within the school day to children starting in kindergarten;
- To offer students opportunities to perform; and
- To foster a love of music in students and their parents.

**Q Would my child attend Dooley School only for the Early Instrumental Music Program?**

**A** Students in the Early Instrumental Music Program must be students at Dooley either through neighborhood residency or as participants in the English-Japanese Dual Language Program.

**Q What happens when my child enters fourth grade?**

**A** Violin lessons and group classes are offered to students in fourth, fifth and sixth grade who choose to continue violin instruction.

**Q What does research say about teaching children instrumental music in kindergarten and the primary grades?**

**A** There has been ample research to show that education in the arts, especially in music, enhances many aspects of cognitive and emotional development. Research has proven that knowledge of the arts is an essential component of a multidisciplinary comprehensive education. This program will encourage optimal learning for all students in a structured, yet creative environment.

**Q What method of instruction is used?**

**A** The Early Instrumental Music Program uses the Suzuki Method. The Suzuki philosophy is based on the belief that all children can learn given the proper environment, and requires the parent to participate in the lessons and home practice. Parents are also required to provide a musical home environment by playing recordings of the music to be learned daily. No prior musical experience is required for students or parents in order to be successful in the Early Instrumental Music Program.

**Q How long should children practice at home?**

**A** The practice sessions will range from 5 to 10 minutes at first, and increase as the child advances. The average practice time for second- and third-year students is 30 minutes daily. Consistent daily practice at home is required for success in this program.

**Q What if parents cannot attend the weekly lesson and biweekly repertoire class with their child?**

**A** It is essential that at least one parent or guardian of each kindergarten, first-grade and second-grade student in the program attend the weekly lesson and weekly repertoire class with the child. At the class, you will learn how to help your children at home.

We highly encourage parents of third-grade students to attend their children's weekly lessons as well. It is essential that parents assist students during home practice sessions.

**Q What accommodations will be made for working parents who cannot attend the weekly lesson and biweekly repertoire class with their children?**

**A** Lessons are scheduled for 30 minutes between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on school days. One parent/guardian must be available for one 30-minute lesson each week. Every effort will be made to schedule lessons at a time that is instructionally beneficial for the child, as well as convenient for the parent. Lessons are scheduled at the same time and day each week.

**Q How much is this going to cost?**

**A** The music lessons are free. However, parents are responsible for instrument rental and materials fees.

- Rental prices range from \$25 to \$40 per month.
- Materials (book, CD) will cost approximately \$25 per year.

For further information about Dooley's Early Instrumental Program, please contact Principal Holly Schlicher at (847) 357-6250.