



Note From The Director

Dear WRSS Families,

As we wrap up the academic year, we reflect upon how the pandemic has changed our lives in a myriad of ways. Parents who previously worked outside the home had little warning that they would be working from home and overseeing online learning. Students went from seeing friends at school, playdates, musical and other extracurricular activities, to suddenly grappling with how to learn online. The learning curve for many of us was steep! Teachers had to figure out how to have meaningful interactions with students – keeping them engaged and learning. Just learning how to navigate the technology felt like a full-time job to many of us!

We are grateful to have been on this journey with you and your family and we look forward to more in person events as time goes on. Thank you for your flexibility and creativity as we navigated uncharted waters together. For all those parents who have helped with technology this year – you have deepest gratitude!

This past weekend, we were thrilled to hear many of our students perform on either the Virtual or Live Spring Recital this year. Despite all the upheaval our students continued to practice and continued to learn. It may have looked very different than in years past, but we are glad to be entering a new normal that will hopefully allow for more in person interaction and connection.

Our students found ways to be creative including participating in the 50 day practice challenge and raising money for two area organizations – The Humane Society of Summit County and The Akron-Canton Foodbank. Both organizations wrote heartfelt letters of thanks for nearly \$300 of donations. Speaking of creativity, here is a website with loads of creative practice ideas:

<https://www.thepracticeshoppe.com/>

As we turn towards the summer, we encourage you to continue lessons and find opportunities to attend music camps and live concerts. A number of our WRSS students have already enrolled in weekly chamber studies at the Hudson Montessori School Conservatory of Music – directed by Dr. Moses. This summer, students have the option of signing up for weekly chamber coachings or a week-long Chamber Intensive or both! For kids 3-13, there is a 3-day Suzuki camp as well. Here is a link to register for Suzuki camp, summer chamber music and orchestra.

<https://www.hudsonmontessori.org/beyond-the-classroom/conservatory-of-music-at-hms>

WRSS



Western Reserve

SUZUKI SCHOOL

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## Note From The Director...continued

### July

**31st**—mandatory anthem rehearsal 9:30 a.m.

### August

**7th**—mandatory anthem practice, 9:30 a.m.

**8th**—National Anthem performance, time is 1:00 p.m.

Pop-up group class tba

### Looking for a Suzuki day camp close to home?

Come learn together with COM@HMS Suzuki Faculty in a fun, 3-day Suzuki workshop focused on Suzuki principles and repertoire. It is open to violin, viola, cello and guitar students ages 3-13 currently learning in any book level. The youngest students need to be learning the Twinkle Variations. For parents, we are offering 50 min parent class occurring each day of the program. Parents do not need to have a child participating in the workshop to participate. All sessions will take place at Hudson Montessori School and all participants will observe updated Covid-19 safety protocols. For more info, go to programs/suzuki

<https://www.hudsonmontessori.org/beyond-the-classroom/conservatory-of-music-at-hms/>

The Cleveland Orchestra is also planning a Blossom season this summer! This is such a fun family outing – pack a picnic and catch some great music! <https://www.clevelandorchestra.com/attend/seasons-and-series/blossom-21/>

Finally, you will soon be receiving a WRSS Regis link by email for next fall. This past year, we were able to offer some limited Saturday morning small group classes, and we plan to expand our offerings to include Group/Performance Class plus Chamber Orchestra. For our youngest students, Group, Reading/Music Theory class. We will of course be offering our Recital-only option but hope that many of you will consider our twice a month Saturday group classes. These Saturday morning opportunities allow students the opportunity to frequently perform with and for their peers in a friendly, informal setting. Ask your teacher if this would be a good option for your child. We will be planning at least 2 community performance opportunities next year, depending upon covid restrictions.

Enjoy the warming spring days and we look forward to seeing you this summer!

## Does Practice Make Perfect?

I grew up hearing the phrase “Practice makes perfect”. And of course I thought “Boy, that must be impossible to be perfect!”. The truth is, no one is perfect so nothing can become perfect by practicing. What we should be telling our kids is practice makes easy, or practice makes progress. While perfection has its place, it can also lead to a sense of inadequacy, anxiety or even procrastination (i.e. “If I can’t do it perfectly, I might as well not do it at all”). Practice is all about the small steps forward. It allows us to experiment with new and old, builds confidence and puts us in a healthy routine.

Need some ideas? Check out the tips below to help your student achieve without the added stress of being “perfect”.

- Review Jar or Sack of Songs: Place names of all review pieces inside and choose a set amount per day until all pieces are played through and then refill!
- Backwards or mixed-up practice: Play through from the last section to the first or mix up the sections of each review piece. Another example might be to play the B section only from each review piece one day.
- Keeping track of repetitions: Actively moving things like numbers, marbles, coins or even M&M’s (to be eaten later!) is not only a fun way to keep track of repetitions, but also helps the child become mindful about resetting their position after each repetition.

# WHY ATTEND A SUMMER MUSIC CAMP?

School is out and summer has arrived! The kids don't have to get up early and go to school. Finally some time to relax or do something new. There's nothing to do?? Maybe they need a fun new activity. Summer music camps are fun and have lots of learning opportunities. So here is a list of the top 8 reasons your child should attend a summer camp.

## (1) Continue Development of Performance Skills

Students spend the school year learning new skills and refining them for performance. A summer music camp will help stave off the backward slide performance skills can take during the summer. They are a great way to bridge the gap in learning (and retaining) skills and concepts over the long summer months.

## (2) Expand View of Participation in Music

As their daily lives become routine, it is easy for kids to remain unaware of the scope of participation in music performance at their age level. Sure, they may attend a festival or competition, but those experiences will likely have limited interaction with peers. A summer music camp truly allows the students to get to know their music peers – often from distant schools – to help broaden their view of participation in music.

## (3) Foster Independence and Self-Reliance

Especially for students traveling away from home to stay at the summer music camp, this will be a chance for them to build their self-confidence as individuals and as performers. The camp can provide a safe environment for a student to tackle new personal and musical challenges.

## (4) Inspire New Learning through Novel Experiences

New or novel experiences can be powerful influences on imprinting memories in our brains. The best summer music camps are places to meet new friends, perform new music, and provide new inspiration to encourage continued study. The wonderful memories and friendships forged at a summer music camp can last a lifetime and provide a springboard for further development as individuals and musicians.

## (5) Build Confidence through Successful, Meaningful Music Creation

Often, summer music camps ask students to perform a placement audition to form groups based on ability. Placing kids in like-ability ensembles creates a safe environment for taking risks and tackling new challenges.

## (6) Deepen Knowledge Related to Chosen Instrument

Many performance-based summer camps will include masterclasses presented by experts for a given instrument. Summer music camps present a wonderful venue for in-depth focus on an instrument and the skill development necessary to advance as a performer.

## (7) Explore New Avenues for Performance/Participation

Getting ready to play in an ensemble next school year? Want to dive into jazz improvisation? Intrigued by small chamber ensemble experiences? Summer music camps offer a diversity of opportunities to explore new avenues of performance.

## (8) Develop and Strengthen Friendships Rooted in Music-Making

Many students (and adults) are drawn to music-making, in part, for the socialization aspect. The summer music camp can strengthen existing friendships and open the doors for new ones.

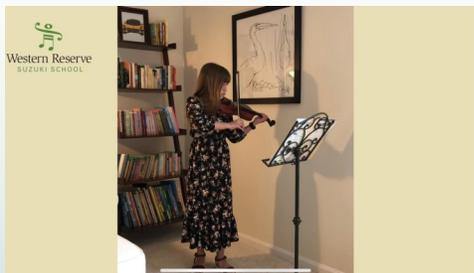
# LOOK AT OUR STUDENTS!

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SUZUKI SCHOOL

## WRSS

### Virtual Spring Recital

Saturday, April 24, 2021



Have news or photos to add? Send your news to Marian Goss at [gossmarian@yahoo.com](mailto:gossmarian@yahoo.com)



# WRSS In-person Recital

