

Karlstrom Violin Studio
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Studio Policy

I use the Suzuki Method of teaching violin, augmented with methods and materials from other traditions. Students have a **weekly private lesson** and a weekly group lesson, and parents attend both, observing and taking notes so they can be the child's helper at home during daily practice. My students currently range in age from 5 - adult. I also teach beginning viola.

Group lessons are an important part of Suzuki education, providing social interaction for students and families, and reinforcing skills learned in private lessons. My students attend the Saturday morning group classes at the UNM Suzuki Lab School (where I am a Coordinator), which is part of UNM Music Prep School. A separate tuition fee is charged, which is paid to UNM Music Prep at the beginning of each semester. Group lessons involve position review, practice of technical skills, literature review, group playing skills, ear training, singing, listening to recorded music, and concert music preparation.

Older students play in school orchestra, an Albuquerque Youth Symphony orchestra, Mad About Music tour group, or similar performing group.

Parent Education sessions are for parents of beginning students, involving ~ 8 weeks of classes with me before the child starts. Topics include Suzuki philosophy, parenting skills, and home practice; parents also learn the basics of playing violin. (Fees for parent education are the same as for lessons.) Parents also have the option of attending the UNM Suzuki Lab School parent classes offered fall semester.

Tuition for private lessons is \$50.00/hour, plus gross receipts tax. Most children take half hour lessons at first. Families are billed at the end of the month.

Students in Book 2 and above also pay an **accompanist's fee**, for piano accompaniment at our monthly recitals. (I accompany Book 1 students, but they have the option to use our accompanist if preferred.) The fee is set by our studio accompanist; currently it is \$25 for one rehearsal plus the recital.

Absences—I will not credit or make up a forgotten lesson, or if a student has a social event elsewhere. If your child is sick, please call the morning of the lesson. If you want to switch lessons with another family for a particular week, you must make those arrangements yourself.