

<i>Beginner Groups</i>		
Goals Might Include:	How/Why:	Sample Activities:
Social – Friendship/Fellowship	Group classes are community-building, providing an opportunity to play with other students, and to observe other students experiencing success or challenges. Since piano practice can be quite solitary, children can learn and develop friendships with one another. Parents also interact with other parents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner games, movement activities and singing • Name games • Collaborative games
Listening/Musicality	Students develop listening skills. Students move to music and develop an emotional connection with music.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhythm, dynamics and singing games and activities • Activities that develop musical expression and emotion • Improvisation activities • Ear training activities
Ensemble Playing	Learning to play as an ensemble is an important skill for every musician. Focus, concentration and listening skills are developed. Each year, a community-wide theme is chosen that gives students the opportunity to learn a group piece from a wide variety of musical genres.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on bowing and playing as a group • Working on duets or group pieces • Playing Suzuki repertoire together • Preparation to play at group concert
Pre-Reading Activities: Basic Music Theory	Pre-reading activities are important pre-cursors to the note-reading that begins later.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities with the keyboard, staff, rhythm, dynamics • Alphabet cards • Using the giant staff
Suzuki Repertoire	Students gain a more in-depth understanding of the music in Book 1. This is also a good review of the pieces in Book 1 as children progress.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities to identify repertoire • Learning and playing together • Singing lyrics to the repertoire
Performance Opportunities	Group class provides a non-intimidating atmosphere for children to practice performing. Performing in front of a small group may alleviate some anxiety caused by solo performing. It also helps prepare children for future concerts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini-concerts in class • Participation in the Group Concert

<i>Intermediate Groups</i>		
Goals Might Include:	How/Why:	Sample Activities:
Social – Friendship/Fellowship	<p>Students look forward to seeing piano friends at group class. They can be motivated and encouraged by working with their peers – observing that they are “not the only one” who might be experiencing a particular challenge.</p> <p>Parents can also share ideas with other parents and enjoy the progress of all the students together.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner/group activities and games
Listening/Musicality	<p>Students continue to develop listening skills.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhythm and movement activities • Activities that develop musical expression and emotion • Improvisation activities • Ear training activities
Ensemble Playing	<p>Playing as an ensemble continues to be a core component of group class. Students continue to develop focus, concentration and listening skills. Students understand their role in ensuring a successful ensemble performance. Each year, a community-wide theme is chosen that gives students the opportunity to learn a group piece from a wide variety of musical genres.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice starting on time, ending together, playing with appropriate volume • Working on duets or group pieces • Playing Suzuki repertoire together • Preparation to play at group concert
Reading/Music Theory	<p>Students continue to develop note-reading skills.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop rhythm patterns • Note-reading and musical symbols activities
Repertoire	<p>More in-depth exploration of the repertoire and composers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition games with repertoire • Discussion of the pieces (i.e. info about the composer or “What is a minuet?”)
Performance Opportunities	<p>Group class provides a venue for students to polish their performance skills.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini-concerts in class • Participation in the Group Concert

<i>Advanced Groups</i>		
Goals Might Include:	How/Why:	Sample Activities:
Social	Students' friendships have strengthened within the group, and they look forward to working with one another. Students enjoy collaborating on a wide variety of activities and are reliable group members when they attend regularly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watching/discussing music-related video • Going to a concert together
Listening/Musicality	Students have expanded beyond the basic Suzuki repertoire and explore pieces from other genres. Students observe recorded or live master performances to explore musicality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students learn typical jazz or rock rhythms • Students learn how to harmonize a melody • Improvisation activities • Ear training activities
Ensemble Playing	Playing as an ensemble continues to be a core component of group class. Students continue to develop focus, concentration and listening skills. Students understand their role in ensuring a successful ensemble performance. Each year, a community-wide theme is chosen that gives students the opportunity to learn a group piece from a wide variety of musical genres.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice starting on time, ending together, playing with appropriate volume • Working on duets or group pieces • Playing Suzuki repertoire together • Preparation to play at group concert
Reading/Music Theory	Students solidify the basic theory concepts (i.e. different chords, scales, order of sharps and flats, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of leadsheets • Analysis of repertoire (form and key relationships)
Repertoire/ Supplemental Pieces	Students learn more advanced repertoire and can learn independently. The repertoire could include two, three, or four-parts and would require more independence in performing. Students continue to study many genres and composers including those outside of the Suzuki repertoire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion about composers, musical eras • Recognition games with repertoire • Perform supplemental pieces at group concert
Performance Opportunities	Group class provides a venue for students to enhance their performance skills. It helps prepare students for recitals or workshops.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini-concerts in class • Participation in the Group Concert