



NWISC News

November 2007

Getting the most out of lessons and home practice

How should the majority of practice time be spent? And when time is short, what is the most important material to practice? Repertoire!

This collection of already known pieces enables the student truly to hone his or her skills. To call a piece part of one's "repertoire" assumes not only that the basics of notes and rhythms are thoroughly familiar, but that dynamics, phrasing, and musicality have at least begun to be included. If repertoire is consistently well-practiced with attention to tone, posture, intonation, articulation, and whatever one skill is being focused on during a given week (if this is unclear, be sure to ask your teacher about it), then learning new material will be possible much more quickly. Plus, the student's ability to communicate—which is the ultimate goal of music—is considerably heightened.

Spending quality time on repertoire maintains and strengthens a player's foundation, so that new technique can readily be added to it. In contrast, when repertoire is neglected, everything must be relearned with each piece, making new material that much more difficult and time-consuming to learn. Therefore, if you want to progress more quickly and easily, focus your attention on repertoire. For fastest progress, only about 25% of practice time should be on new material. Spend the majority of practice time mindfully playing repertoire.

Move-in date announced!



Beginning Friday, November 9, all lessons (including groups) in Valparaiso will be at our new location: 505 Don Hovey Dr. Directions are on the website and in the Parent Guidebook. We look forward to being able to play and learn there! Thank you for your patience along with us as we have waited for this day.

The parent night on Tuesday, Nov. 6, will be at 505 Don Hovey Dr.

New violin group format

On Friday, Nov. 9, we will begin a new format for violin groups. The starting time for the first group will remain at 3:45. The second group will run from 4:05—4:35, and the third group will go from 4:35—5:00. Your teacher will let you know which group or groups to attend.

Going (mostly) paperless

Because NWISC strives to be a good steward of our environment and of your time, we are making plans to operate more electronically, which will help to preserve trees and will decrease the in-lesson time spent on business items. This will be the last newsletter printed for each family. Instead, newsletters will be posted on our website (nwisuzuki.com) by the 10th of each month in the "newsletters" section, listed in the menu on the left of the website. Please check there for helpful and important information. Some printed copies also will be put out at 505 Don Hovey, for you to take if you wish. Either way, please make sure that you read these, since they are the only way we can make certain that necessary and helpful information is communicated to you.

Also, statements will be emailed prior to the due dates listed on the calendar. Please make note of the due dates. If you have not received a statement by then, please email nwisc@nwisuzuki.com or call (219) 465-4040. If you prefer to have your statement mailed to you, please likewise email or call. Because we are endeavoring to focus on teaching and learning during the lessons, we ask that you would please either mail tuition to 505 Don Hovey Dr. by the due date, or simply drop it in the box when you are there for a lesson, group, or recital. Thank you!

Contact information

You can contact any NWISC teacher by phone at (219) 465-4040.

The email addresses for each teacher are on the "Faculty" page of the website, and are as follows:

Sally DuBois—sdubois411@aol.com

Kassie Meeks—kassie@nwisuzuki.com

Rich Ortiz—rich.ortiz@musician.org

Or, you can simply email NWISC in general at nwisc@nwisuzuki.com, and we will make sure your email reaches its intended recipient.

Our first parent night and the Grand Opening Celebration!

Our first parent night (for parents of all students enrolled at NWISC) is Tuesday, November 6, from 7:30—8:30 p.m., at 505 Don Hovey Dr. in Valparaiso. This is for parents only, for the benefit of the students. Please plan to attend! We are very excited about this opportunity to answer your questions, to provide practical information to make home practice times more effective, and to enable mutual encouragement and sharing of ideas. If you have any questions about these or if there is anything we can do to help make it possible for you to attend, please talk to your teacher or call or email NWISC.

Our Grand Opening Celebration for 505 Don Hovey Dr. in Valparaiso is Sunday, November 11 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. We look forward to hearing the students play on our new stage, and to celebrating with you for the opening of this tool for learning and growth. We are excited about the increased possibilities that come with having our own space!

