

Violin Teacher

Guidebook

2014-2015



Welcome to Shine On Music!

On behalf of the Shine On Music Executive Team, we welcome you to the Shine On Music Violin Program. We believe you will benefit greatly from this experience as you share your musical talent and artistic expression. We also know that your students will benefit greatly as they draw from your knowledge and begin their music journey.

Shine On Music is committed to providing meaningful opportunities to underserved students to learn and practice self-expression skills through music. We hold our teachers in high esteem and have created this guidebook to support you in this significant role. This guidebook features tools to assist you in being a well-informed and effective teacher.

Inside this Guidebook

Overview & Benefits

Program Overview

Shine On Music (SOM) is a non-profit student-run organization that offers free violin, piano composition, and singing-songwriting classes to inner-city schools.

We are working hard to become the pre-eminent program providing quality music education for young underserved audiences and for their communities as a whole. Through music, we aim to inspire the next generation.

Our goal is to promote the joys of music and provide quality music education to underserved children in a fun environment. SOM violin teaching model incorporates aspects of improvisation into a weekly group lesson while still teaching the essential basics.



Program Benefits

Shine on Music was created to support students who wished to explore the improvisational and compositional aspect of music. Students and their parents report that they find the experience invaluable; past music teachers have told us teaching also helps them grow and learn too.

Top 3 Benefits for Music Teachers

1. Improve your communication and teaching skills
2. Diversify your life with music
3. Contribute to your community by inspiring the next generation of musicians

Top 3 Benefits for Students

1. Receive high-quality music education
2. Be equipped to express themselves and their ideas
3. Learn the values of collaboration, flexibility, imagination, and innovation

Shine On Music Roles

Music Teachers

Teachers generally commit to teaching 1 hour a week for both terms. Teachers are expected to:

- Provide a valid criminal check to Queen Alexandra School (Shine On will reimburse teachers)
- Be responsible music teacher by being respectful, on time, and prepared
- Build a supportive and encouraging relationship with the students
- Actively participate in Shine On Events such as Year End Concert

Students

Students range from grade 4-7 with the occasional exception. Students are expected to:

- Be prepared to commit for the entire school year
- Attend all of their lessons or notify their teacher beforehand (for emergencies, let school office know)

Shine On Executive

Administration team supports their music teachers and students by:

- Fundraising money to reimburse teachers' criminal checks
- Provide instruments & teaching resources for the students
- Provide teaching development resources for new teachers and be available if any problem arises

Queen Alexandra Elementary School

Queen Alexandra School supports Shine On Music programs by:

- Providing classrooms and some teaching resources to the programs
- Be available if any emergency arises during an after-school lesson

Tips for Teaching

Be a caring teacher

Get to know your students by asking them how they are and if there is anything important they want to talk about. Ask what music they like and if there are anything songs they want to eventually learn.

Be a motivator

Motivate your students by teaching them their favourite songs, letting them play in duets, or let them choose what they will learn.

Be patient

Introduce new concepts slowly and be prepared to repeat it a couple times. Remember to move on before your students get bored. It is normal for students to forget new concepts the following week.

Be positive

Be encouraging and always try to end the lesson on a positive note by playing their favourite piece or playing a game

Be prepared

Consider making lesson plans, so you aren't trying to come up with activities on the spot. If you are not sure what to teach, contact the Shine On Executive Team at info.shineonmusic@gmail.com

Be respectful

Be respectful by being on time and polite.

Talk to your students about practicing

When assigning homework for the week, write it down for your students if possible.

Have Fun!

If you have any questions/concerns/feedback, email Shine On Executive Team at info.shineonmusic@gmail.com

Goals & Learning Objectives

Program Goals

- Be able to play a short piece (with or without accompaniment) for the year-end concert in April
- Learn to improvise basic rhythm and melodies
- Have fun playing the violin!

Suggested Learning Objectives

These are only suggestions because each student is unique.

- Be able to name the 4 violin strings and different parts of the violin + bow
- Learn how to take care of the violin (loosen bow, don't touch bow hairs with hand)
- Understand how the names of notes correspond to finger placement on the violin
- Be able to recognize the sound of the 4 open strings
- Be able to hold the violin correctly (no bow yet)
- Be able to pizzicato open strings. Incorporate rhythm patterns into pizzicato
- Learn to pizzicato notes on the A string and E string in first position
- Learn to hold the bow (start with pencil if necessary) and play open strings
- Vary bow strokes. Ask students to be creative.
- Be able to play (bow) notes on the A and E string in first position.
- Play with dynamics
- Improvise off of simple melodies like Twinkle Twinkle Little Star
- Learn to play notes on D and G string in first position.