

Emma Riebe Cello Studio

Hello and welcome! I am so excited to begin this rewarding journey with you and your child. Below you will find my teaching philosophy, studio policies, and helpful information.

Teaching Philosophy

It is my foremost belief as a teacher that your child is truly capable of *anything* they set their mind to. I teach with positive reinforcement and *never* judgement so that your child is in a warm and comfortable environment, one that fosters and nurtures their potential! I see teaching as more than teaching a child to learn the cello, but as an opportunity to accompany students on their journey towards embracing who they are, creating meaningful art, and showing love to the world.

Teaching style

Technique: No matter the age or prior experience of the student, you can expect a slow start when joining my studio so that we can establish a firm foundation of cello technique. Without this foundation, the student can only progress so much. With the foundation set and solid, the possibilities are endless! I teach tension-free cello playing. There should never be pain or discomfort anywhere in the body which is why I have such a large focus on establishing proper technique. It can take several weeks to establish the correct technique but it is completely and undoubtedly worth it!

Suzuki Method: I primarily teach the [Suzuki method](#) with a focus on using the ear and repetition to learn music before reading music. If the student already knows how to read music, then I take a hybrid approach so that we can develop both skills: playing by ear and reading music.

Encouragement: As I stated in my teaching philosophy, my cello studio is a safe and encouraging space. I will never say that your child played something “wrong”. I will instead guide them to new and exciting ways to try again. It takes courage to put effort towards learning an instrument and I will always be the student’s encourager!

Performance/Group: Being around other children who are learning the cello in the form of group classes and performances is motivating and fun. They will get more comfortable playing in front of others and it will enhance their learning by playing alongside their peers.

Required student materials

Chair or stool, cello and bow, printer (or printer available), rosin, Suzuki cello book (assigned by teacher).

Student expectations

As I will always show the student respect, I expect the same in return! I expect the student to come to their cello lesson with focus and engagement and to practice at home the amount of the time that we determine is attainable for them. Simply put, I expect them to do their best!

Parent expectations

The more parent involvement, the better. I encourage parents to attend cello lessons and learn the concepts alongside their child so that they can act as the “home teacher” and encourager. This makes a big difference in the student’s learning experience. To learn about being a Suzuki parent, visit the [Suzuki Association website](#) for parent resources!

Make-up lesson policy

If you can’t make our normal lesson time and reach out to me more than 24 hours prior to our normal scheduled lesson time, I am happy and willing to reschedule the lesson for that week. If it is a no-show or under 24 hours notice, then I will not do a make-up and you have to wait until the next week’s lesson.