

Superior String Alliance

Parent Handbook

2021 Summer Music Festival & Student Code of Conduct



Founded in 1984, the Superior String Alliance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that supports the art of learning and performing music on the violin, viola, cello, and bass throughout Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

SSA teaches the U.P. 's next generation of string players, connects musicians from all over the U.P. and beyond, and grows young musicians' artistry by fostering a community built on curiosity and kindness.

Website: superiorstringalliance.org

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Hello SSA Families!

We are delighted to share with you that SSA will have in-person programming this summer! Instead of our regular sleep-away camp, we will host outdoor daytime programming under two pavilions at Presque Isle Park in Marquette.

This summer's programming will be a lot like camp, just shorter: we will have orchestra, chamber groups and lessons when possible, fun outdoor activities, and tie-dyed t-shirts, of course!

As you well know, the Covid-19 situation is dynamic and ever-changing. SSA is doing its absolute best to keep everyone safe while we operate during a summer of transition. It is SSA's intention to run our normal sleep-away camp sessions at Presbytery Point in summer 2022 and many future summers beyond.

Over the past 34 years, one key to SSA's success has been the significant investment we make in earning and maintaining the trust of parents and students alike. Facilitating a fun and musical experience in a physically and emotionally safe environment is our priority.

This handbook includes information that will ensure classes are full of fun and wonderful memories. Please read it carefully and let us know if you have questions or need any additional information.

See you soon!

Sincerely,



Danielle Simandl
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[Facebook](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Youtube](#)



SSA SUMMER FESTIVAL CALENDAR

Adult Session: Grande

- For any adult who plays or wants to begin playing violin, viola, cello, or bass
- Saturday, July 24, 2021
- 12pm - 4pm
- Location TBD
- \$75

High School Session: Vivace

- For students who will be in 9th - 12 grade in the fall of 2021*
- For students who read music and play violin, viola, cello, or bass
- Monday, July 26 - Friday, July 30, 2021
- 11am - 2:30pm
- Presque Isle Park, Marquette, MI
- \$195

*Seniors who graduated in the spring of 2021 are welcome to register!

**Apply for a scholarship after registration in the student's CampDoc health profile; more info below.

Middle School Session: Presto

- For students who will be in 6th - 8th grade in the fall of 2021*
- For students who read music and play violin, viola, cello, or bass
- Monday, August 2 - Friday, August 6, 2021
- 11am - 2:30pm
- Presque Isle Park, Marquette, MI
- \$195

*6th graders who are interested in *starting* violin, viola, or cello this summer can register for [SSA Strings Club](#).

**Apply for a scholarship after registration in the student's CampDoc health profile; more info below.

- **Final Concerts (Vivace and Presto):** 2PM on the Friday of each session
- **CampDoc Health Profiles Due:** June 18th, 2021
- **Tuition Due:** June 18th, 2021

THINGS PARTICIPANTS WILL NEED FOR SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL CLASSES

- A violin, viola, cello, or bass with case, bow and rosin
- Sack Lunch/Snack
- Water bottle filled with water
- Paper
- Pencils
- Music folder that will be passed out on the first day of in-person class

*SSA will provide chairs and stands, though it wouldn't hurt to bring a wire stand to classes each day.

IN-PERSON CLASSES

SSA Summer Music Festival classes will take place at the Presque Isle Senior Pavilion, which is behind Moosewood Nature Center. Having class here will grant us ventilated air, room to social distance, and the ability to have class even on rainy days. We will supply chairs and stands.

CLOTHES:

All in-person classes will be held entirely outdoors, so it is very important to dress appropriately for the weather. Participants should be sure to bring clothing layers. Sunscreen and bug spray might be a good idea too!

RAIN:

Classes will run if it's raining. If severe thunderstorms are predicted during the time of class, we will cancel ahead of time. If surprise severe thunderstorms roll in during class, we will shelter under the pavilion or in the bathrooms at the Moosewood Nature Center.

DROP OFF & PICK UP:

High School Session: Vivace

High School students can drive themselves to classes and sign themselves in and out. Parents are NOT required to sign in their child every morning, or notify us as to whom we should expect for pick-up. Parents who drive their child to Vivace should stay until their child has gone through their Covid-19 daily symptom check-in.

Middle School Session: Presto

Drop off and pick up procedures for Presto will be different from the Vivace session. Drop off and pick up procedures for Presto will be quick. Parents are required to sign in their child every morning, and notify us as to whom we should expect for pick-up. Please drop off your child no earlier than 9:30AM and no later than 9:55; please also be timely in picking up your child in the afternoon, and notify us of any delays.

If you stick around for the duration of class, you are welcome to observe from a distance.

FOOD/WATER:

Participants should bring a sack lunch/snack and full water bottle each day to class.

FINAL CONCERT:

We will have final concerts for both the Vivace and Presto sessions at 2:00PM on the Friday of each session. Families and friends are encouraged to attend! There isn't space to fit the audience under the pavilion, so you'll need umbrellas if it is raining that day. If the rain is too heavy we will record the concert and email it to all parents/guardians.

BATHROOMS:

Bathrooms are located within sight of the Pavilion at the Moosewood Nature Center, and we will have a buddy system in place for students wishing to use them in order to keep everyone safe.

PHONES:

Students should only have phones for emergency purposes - if students have cell phones they will be required to put them away for the duration of class each day.

STUDENT SAFETY:

We expect students to be focused, respectful, and mindful of their own and others' safety. We will go over our safety procedures on the first day, and students will be expected to follow the instructions. All students will be required to stay within the pavilion/garden/field area, and we will have a buddy system in place to keep track of everyone. Students should notify us if they see unfamiliar people. Staff will not be able to drive students anywhere.

COVID SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:

SSA takes the health and safety of our employees and program participants very seriously. The current worldwide coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and associated government-mandated operational phases and similar orders in many communities underscore the risks associated with any programming. SSA is committed to remaining vigilant in mitigating this outbreak. To accomplish this, we ask parents/guardians to please understand that:

- Students should arrive to classes with several masks, as we will be requiring face mask use when we are in tight quarters underneath a pavilion and 6 feet of social distance is not possible. This is the plan as of June 1st, and it may change depending on current CDC guidelines.
- Students will not be allowed to attend class if any of the following applies:
 - EXPOSURE
 - Has the student had exposure to anyone with the symptoms below?
 - Has the student had exposure to anyone with a positive COVID-19 test?
 - Is the student currently awaiting test results due to symptoms or exposure?
 - Is the student awaiting test results for someone who is a family member, or deemed a close contact?
- Students will check in with a daily symptom check
 - Is the student's temperature greater than 100.0 degrees F?
 - Does the student have any of the following symptoms?
 - Cough, congestion or sore throat?
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing?
 - Loss of taste/smell?
 - Fever, chills or muscle aches?
 - Headache or runny nose?

- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea? Any additional symptoms designated by the CDC?
- Students and staff will be checked as per this protocol upon arrival each day including temperature checks. Thanks for your understanding, as our goal is to keep everyone safe!
- We will practice social distancing, frequent hand washing, and we will wear our masks.

SSA STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Hello Students!

By reading the SSA Student Code of Conduct with your parent/guardian and by your parent/guardian signing the Code of Conduct authorization in your CampDoc Health Profile, you are agreeing to abide by SSA rules and understand that you may be removed as a participant if you violate any of these rules.

BULLYING AND HARASSMENT POLICY

Harassment is prohibited between members of the SSA community, including communication of any form between students, parents, faculty and/or staff, and any third parties directly or indirectly. We are committed to maintaining a working and learning environment in which participants can develop intellectually, professionally, personally and socially. Bullying and harassment will not be tolerated and shall be just cause for disciplinary action.

Below are examples of poor behaviors that are prohibited, but are not limited to this list. These behaviors will result in disciplinary action.

- Abusive language towards a staff member or another participant.
- Verbal, physical or visual harassment of another participant or staff member.
- Actual or threatened violence toward any individual or group.
- Conduct endangering the life, safety, health or well-being of others.
- Bullying or taking unfair advantage of any participant.
- Failing to cooperate with a staff member.
- Sending or posting discriminatory, harassing, or threatening messages or images.
- Sending or posting messages that defame or slander other individuals.
- Recording any class session and transmitting it.

- Recording your teacher and/or fellow students.
- Participation in cyber-bullying and/or harassment.

PHOTO AND VIDEO POLICY

It is really important to remember that only SSA is allowed to photograph or record students during virtual and in-person class activities. This rule is for the safety of everyone. So please understand that:

- Only designated SSA staff are allowed to record and photograph any SSA activities.
- Only designated SSA staff are allowed to transmit any recording or photograph of any classes.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

At Superior String Alliance we understand that the internet and social media platforms are continually changing, but there are certain principles that remain constant. To ensure that Superior String Alliance remains an emotionally safe and supportive environment for all participants the following policies are in place. Failure to comply with the policies listed below may result in disciplinary action.

- Students under 18 years of age and/or who have not graduated from high school will refrain from friending or following staff members' private social media accounts.
- Staff will refrain from friending or following the private social media accounts of students under 18 years of age and/or who have not graduated from high school.
- No communication between staff and students will occur in private messages on social media.
- All pictures and recordings of SSA activities with students can only be posted through SSA social media pages. You are more than welcome to share SSA's social media posts on your own social media accounts.

BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT AND DISCIPLINE POLICY

Our primary goal is to maintain a physically, emotionally, and intellectually safe environment for all participants. Our role in any behavior management situation is to promote the student's safety, comfort, and growth. We strive to prevent problematic behaviors and we avoid punishment as it removes a growth opportunity. Being proactive and preventative, using proximity and positive messages, and giving specific feedback are constant themes throughout staff training and are easily seen in our daily interactions with students. We also try to identify what may be driving the behaviors. Is the student hungry? Angry? Lonely? Tired?

Disrespectful behavior is often a precursor to unsafe behavior. To keep children safe, we strive to identify and redirect disrespectful behavior as it occurs. When redirection is unsuccessful or when instances of unsafe conduct occur, we will follow these general steps and inform you, the parent/guardian what behavior management steps we took with your child:

1. Reconnect with the student - stop talking and listen, communicate calmly, validate their feelings, reflect what we hear. We will reiterate or clarify expectations, making sure they understand, and let them know the next steps.
2. Give the student a clear verbal warning.
3. Remove the student from the group to have a longer conversation. From there, staff will engage the student with leading questions that get them to think about what's going on (e.g. "Tell me what happened?" "What do you think should happen now?"). Throughout, we will maintain connection with the student in whatever way is comfortable and appropriate for that particular student.
4. If the unacceptable behavior continues, or if the student threatens the emotional or physical safety of themselves or anyone else, our staff will contact you (the parent/guardian) to build an agreed-upon action plan.

Any instance of direct physical, emotional, or sexual harm will result in the immediate removal of the student from the group class and a call home. Such instances could result in expulsion. No refund will be given in such cases.

CANCELLATION POLICY

SSA offers these refund options upon written request and in accordance with the following timeline:

- Before or on July 16th: Full refund, minus a \$10 non-refundable deposit.
- Between July 17th - evening before registered session = Half refund minus a \$10 non-refundable deposit.
- After session has started = No refund. Instead, your tuition will be converted into a tax-deductible donation to the SSA Scholarship Fund.

Exceptions can be made at the discretion of SSA.

TUITION AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Adult Session, Grande: \$75

High School Session, Vivace: \$195

Middle School Session, Presto: \$195

Need-based scholarships are available as funding allows for the Vivace and Presto sessions. We will do everything we can to help. To apply for financial aid, please fill out the scholarship portion of the CampDoc Health Profile after you register. All scholarship applicants will be notified soon after their CampDoc Health Profile is 100% complete.

HOW TO MAKE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO THE SSA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Every child deserves the opportunity to attend SSA programming, no matter what their financial circumstances may be. SSA provides opportunities to break down all sorts of barriers and build bridges of understanding. Generous donors to SSA's Scholarship Fund allow kids to participate in our programs when they might not otherwise have the opportunity. With donor and grant support, we can help students from all walks of life:

- Make new friends.
- Have fun and create.
- Learn about music and make connections with the world around them.
- Try and succeed at doing new things outside their comfort zone.
- Become more kind, curious, and confident.

Let's work together to make SSA an equal opportunity life-changer for any child who wants to participate in our programs! This year has been financially hard for many people, and nonprofits have taken a pretty big hit as well. If you are able to donate to SSA, please know that all amounts are deeply appreciated.

You can make a one-time or recurring monthly donation on our secure website: <https://superiorstringalliance.org/donate/>

Or you can send a check to: PO Box 52, Marquette, MI 49855

Or you can opt to donate to SSA in CampDoc when you register for the SSA Summer Festival Vivace, Presto, or Grande sessions.

Superior String Alliance is an IRS designated 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. Our Federal Tax ID number is 38-2938444.