

Dear Parents,

It's my pleasure to welcome you to our BKCM Suzuki Guitar program! You undoubtedly have questions about what type of equipment you need for you and your child to be ready for the fall. I will include a handy checklist at the end of this email of what to get.

1. PLEASE DO NOT PURCHASE AN INSTRUMENT FOR YOUR CHILD

Guitars are like shoes, they must be sized properly. Either I, or your teacher will size your child in the fall. It is likely that we will have used instruments available within the program. If we need to order a new guitar, it only takes about a week to arrive, so we will have plenty of time.

At BKCM we use guitars that are handmade by Benjamin Garcia and Marlon Navarro with solid cedar soundboards because of their outstanding tone and quality.

2. YOU DO NEED A GUITAR FOR YOURSELF

You will be taking all of your child's individual and group lessons for the first six weeks of the semester. The requirements for your guitar are more broad. We ask you to have a nylon string classical guitar with a solid soundboard. Note that if the guitar doesn't specifically say "solid top", it is not a solid top. The solid top provides big, robust tone that we want to model for the students. The better the instrument sounds, the more enjoyable it is for you to play.

HAND SIZE MATTERS

If you have *small hands*, I recommend getting a 7/8 or 63.6cm guitar, in fact I play a 63cm guitar.

A great 7/8 guitar is the Altamira N100 \$400

<https://www.altamiraguitars.com/us-shop/p/n100-fractional>

If your hands are bigger than medium you can get a full size 65cm guitar. I would recommend either of these:

Altamira Basico \$350 with matte finish

<https://www.altamiraguitars.com/us-shop/p/basico>

Altamira N100 with gloss finish. \$400

<https://www.altamiraguitars.com/us-shop/p/n100>

3. GUITAR SUPPORT- NO FOOTSTOOLS

Along with your guitar you also need a guitar support. *We do not allow footstools because of the stress they place on the lower back.* There are MANY different styles of guitar supports from which to choose. If you have a guitar with a gloss finish, the ErgoPlay Professional works well. If your guitar has a matte or French Polish finish you must put the plastic stickers that come with the ErgoPlay on your guitar to make the ErgoPlay work, OR use a non-suction-cup model such as the Sage (magnetic) or Murata GR-2 or Woodside (clamp).

In addition to the ErgoPlay Professional, I recommend the following:

- Woodside
- GuitarLift (this is one of two supports that also works with small student guitars)
- Murata GR-2
- Sage
- ErgoPlay

-Wolf guitar support (this is one of two supports that also works with small student guitars with the modification of coating it with PlastiDip)

<https://www.stringsbymail.com/guitar-accessories-2/guitar-supports-945/guitar-supports-386/>

I DO NOT RECOMMEND guitar supports that are not height-adjustable such as the Gitano, Efel, Oasis Quad Rest, and PLEASE! NO A-FRAMES!!! They are complicated to use and tend to fall apart.

The Guitar Support is crucial to facilitate proper posture. If you are unsure about which guitar support to purchase, you can try some different options at the first Parent Class. Whichever guitar support you choose, the goal is to look like the person on the left and not like the cartoon on the right:



4. GUITAR TUNER

I recommend the KLIQ Ubertuner. \$23 on Amazon. It has an accurate tuning algorithm and is well-built (mine is over 10 yrs old). Of course there are many apps, and other options for tuners. I have found that Snarks break/die and that apps are not great in a noisy environment.

<https://a.co/d/9D2qkIp>

5. STOOL

You need a stool which allows your child's knees to be at a 90 degree angle. If the angle is greater than 90 degrees (rear end is higher than knees) the guitar will slip. I recommend a telescoping stool for around \$25 from Amazon. There are many options. Some come in different colors, some come with a cushion.

https://www.amazon.com/s?k=telescoping+stool&crid=1OQPYNQHYOAAQQ&prefix=telescoping+stools,99&ref=nb_sb_ss_ts-doa-p_1_14



6. SUZUKI GUITAR BOOK 1 GUITAR RECORDING

The number one thing that will help you and your child is repeated daily listening to the recordings. Please download the mp3's and play them in the background every day so that your child(ren) hears it.

Michele Horner

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My colleague Kale Good has done us a great service by creating a webpage with all the recordings listed in a nice, easy-to-find format.

<https://goodmusicacademy.com/download-all-the-suzuki-guitar-recordings/>

The sooner you get into the habit of playing the Suzuki guitar recordings every day, the better your child(ren) will progress! Now is a great time to start!

I look forward to meeting you and your children in the fall and wish a joyful summer!

Michele Horner

HANDY CHECKLIST OF WHAT TO GET and WHERE TO GET IT

- Nylon-string classical guitar with solid top (for you)

<https://www.altamiraguitars.com/us-shop/classical>

- Guitar support

<https://www.stringsbymail.com/guitar-accessories-2/guitar-supports-945/guitar-supports-386/>

- Guitar tuner

<https://a.co/d/9D2qkIp>

- Telescoping Stool

[https://www.amazon.com/s?](https://www.amazon.com/s?k=telescoping+stool&crid=1OQPYNQHYOAQQ&srefix=telescoping+st,aps,99&ref=nb_sb_ss_ts-doa-p_1_14)

[k=telescoping+stool&crid=1OQPYNQHYOAQQ&srefix=telescoping+st,aps,99&ref=nb_sb_ss_ts-doa-p_1_14](https://www.amazon.com/s?k=telescoping+stool&crid=1OQPYNQHYOAQQ&srefix=telescoping+st,aps,99&ref=nb_sb_ss_ts-doa-p_1_14)

- Suzuki Guitar Book 1 mp3 recordings

<https://goodmusicacademy.com/download-all-the-suzuki-guitar-recordings/>