



Maine Arts Academy Announces Partnership with Pineland Suzuki School

Augusta, Maine – September 9, 2024 – Maine Arts Academy is pleased to announce that the Pineland Suzuki School, a leading institution dedicated to the Suzuki method of music education, has relocated to Maine Arts Academy (MeAA), effective September 2024. This strategic move underscores both institutions' commitment to fostering a vibrant and comprehensive music/arts education within the Kennebec County community.

Maine Arts Academy, a free public charter high school for the arts, renowned for its exceptional arts programs and college preparatory classes, will now house the Pineland Suzuki School, creating an enriched environment. This relocation represents a significant enhancement in resources and opportunities for students of both institutions.

A Commitment to Excellence in Music Education

For the last three decades, the Pineland Suzuki School has been a cornerstone of music education in the region, providing top-tier instruction based on the Suzuki method, otherwise known as "Talent Education." This "Mother-Tongue" approach emphasizes the nurturing of a child's character and innate musical ability through a supportive and engaging learning environment.

The program was founded by Betsy Kobayashi and Ellen Gawler in 1994.

Synergy Between Music and the Arts

Maine Arts Academy, located at 310 Cony Road in Augusta, provides an innovative College Preparatory arts education to high school students grades 9 through 12, but the Academy is also set to open a middle school in the fall of 2025 and will be accepting 7th and 8th grade students beginning January 1, 2025.

Pineland Suzuki School offers classes, orchestra opportunities and lessons to children from age 3 to graduation from high school. "This partnership marks a new chapter in the evolution of Maine Arts Academy," said Heather King, Head of School at Maine Arts Academy. "We are excited to welcome the Pineland Suzuki School and its students into our community. Pineland Suzuki will offer Maine Arts Academy students more opportunities to practice and perform

orchestrally. Together, we will cultivate a rich, interdisciplinary arts education that inspires creativity and excellence.”

Enhanced Opportunities and Facilities

The relocation brings several exciting changes and improvements. Students will benefit from expanded performance spaces, upgraded practice rooms, and greater access to a diverse range of artistic resources. The collaboration will also facilitate joint events, workshops, and performances, further enriching the educational experience for all participants.

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