

HIGHFIELDS STATE SCHOOL



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

**BRASS, WOODWIND, PERCUSSION
STRINGS**

HANDBOOK

2019

HIGHFIELDS STATE SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Strings / Woodwind / Brass / Percussion

INTRODUCTION TO THE PROGRAM

The instrumental music program is an **extension program** introduced in Year 4, for students who demonstrate an aptitude for music as evidenced by classroom music participation and results and the selection criteria discussed later in this document. A lot of resources have been or will be invested in students in the program, so there is an expectation they are **committed to Band or Strings until the end of year 6**. If students are lucky enough to be chosen for the program, it means someone else was not chosen. There is no trial period.

TWO EQUALLY IMPORTANT PARTS TO THE PROGRAM:

1. Weekly Lessons
2. Weekly Ensemble Rehearsals

LESSONS: Tuition is provided by the Instrumental Music teacher who accounts for student progress, attendance at lessons and rehearsals, homework and performance opportunities. Lessons are provided during class time on a fixed timetable in class groupings. E.g. 4A instrumental students at 9.00 am on Tuesday's or 6C string students at 11.30 am on Thursday's.

The fixed timetable in class groupings helps the classroom teacher plan around this regular interruption to the day.

REHEARSALS: Rehearsals are **compulsory if students are in the Instrumental Music Program**. This is where students come together and form ensembles called Concert Band or String Ensemble. They learn to play together, creating a unique and wonderful sound with all the instruments combining. For many students this is the **highlight of the program** where they can put into practice all they have learnt in lessons.

What if I can't make a rehearsal?

Naturally, sometimes things happen that make it impossible to be at a rehearsal. This is when parents or carers need to **email the Instrumental Music teacher or the school office**.

NOTE: It is important students and parents understand that a performance for one of the ensembles or groups is like the grand final for the footy team. In music, we rehearse for many months and give up a lot of time so that we can present performances of the highest standard – our 'grand final'. These performances outside school hours may happen only once or twice a year and are an important part of the music program. As much notice as is possible will be given regarding performance dates and times to assist with planning for families.

INSTRUMENTS HOW DO YOU CHOOSE WHICH ONE?

Choosing an instrument which is suitable for a student requires many different considerations. The Instrumental Music teachers are expert in matching instruments to students. It is important that parents and students are guided by the teacher in the selection of an instrument.

Some of the considerations the teacher will take into account when matching students to instruments are: physical size and muscle tone of the student, facial aspects like teeth and jaw position, height and arm length. Also, which sounds attract the student, like low warm sounds or high bright sounds.

SUCCESS on any instrument will depend on time spent practicing at home, attendance at lessons and most importantly **the encouragement they receive from the important people in their lives** – parents, carers and siblings.

THE INSTRUMENTS

Below is a list of the instruments divided into family or like instruments, which are offered in the Instrumental Music Program. These YouTube clips will give you a demonstration of the instruments so that choice is more informed. These videos include a couple instruments not offered like the oboe and bassoon but all the others are offered.

Concert Band instruments: www.youtube.com/watch?v=CCTeSjpDsls

Orchestral instruments: www.youtube.com/watch?v=DDRiRzip9ks

INSTRUMENTS OFFERED:

STRINGS: Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass

CONCERT BAND:

Woodwind: Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Bass Clarinet

Brass: Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba

Percussion: Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Kit, Glockenspiel, hand percussion

Bass Guitar

ALLOCATION OF SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS FOR LOAN

FIRST YEAR OF TUITION

The school has some instruments available for loan to students in their FIRST YEAR of tuition. These include: Flute, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, Alto & Tenor Saxophone, Bass Guitar, and in the Strings Program: Violin, Viola, Cello and Double Bass.

In order to create a balanced ensemble, **there will be only two bass guitars and three percussionists allowed to start each year.**

Parents should know that with the Brass and Woodwind instruments, priority will be given to grade 4 students for hire of instruments.

SECOND YEAR OF TUITION

It is the responsibility of parents to **supply an instrument** for their child. Most students will need to acquire their own instrument prior to their second year of tuition.

The Euphonium, Tuba, French Horn, Tenor Saxophone, Bass Clarinet and Double Bass can be loaned for the duration of the student's tuition up to the end of year six. Cellos are available for two years.

PERCUSSION

A Note about Percussion: Percussion students receive tuition in snare drum, hand percussion, kit and glockenspiel. Parents are not required to purchase a kit.

OBTAINING AN INSTRUMENT - some hints & tips.....

Purchase locally. Local shops give competitive prices on good brands.

Take care with the cheaper brands. Some do not last the distance.

Second hand: Have them checked out by a qualified repairer.

WHAT EACH STUDENT NEEDS TO HAVE AFTER SECURING AN INSTRUMENT

Every student will need:

- **'Traditions of Excellence'** tutor book for brass, woodwind and percussion.
OR **String tutor for violin, viola and cello students** 'Essential Elements' Book 1 for your instrument
- Pencil and eraser - to be kept in the instrument case.
- A4 Display folder.
- Music stand for home use.

Accessories

Flute

- Cleaning rod – usually supplied with the instrument
- Soft polishing cloth for keys
- Thin cotton cloth to wipe out inside of flute. Old handkerchief is ideal for this

Clarinet and Saxophone

- Key oil
- Two no. 1½ reeds for your instrument – Vandoren or Ricco brands
- Cork grease
- Pull through- purchase this or make using an old handkerchief string and bead.
- Soft polishing cloth for keys and exterior.
- Reed holder.

Trumpet and Euphonium

- Tuning slide grease
- Valve oil
- Mouthpiece brush
- Flexible cleaner

Trombone

- Soft Cotton cloths
- Trombone slide cream
- Tuning slide grease.
- Mouthpiece brush
- Flexible cleaner

Percussion

- Pair of 5A sticks – LA Specials, Pearl or equivalent
- Angel 27 key glockenspiel
- Rebound pad
- NB Percussion students will not be required to purchase a kit.

Violin/viola

- Rosin
- Soft cloth for cleaning the instrument
- Shoulder rest **or** foam sponge and elastic

Cello/double bass

- Rosin
- Soft cloth for cleaning the instrument
- Rock stop

HOW MUCH DOES THE PROGRAM COST?

The Instrumental Music Program is a voluntary program chosen by students and parents. The school, through the P&C is therefore entitled to pass on the costs of the Program to the participants.

Each participant is required to pay a general levy of \$70.00 and hire fee of \$80.00 if the student is using a school instrument. There are costs involved in repairing and replacing instruments and the constant updating of the music library that must be recouped.

Below is a table of expenses that you can expect when you enrol your child in the Program.

All students

Instrumental music levy	\$	70.00
Tradition of Excellence or strings Tutor Book	\$	20.00
Music stand – approximate	\$	15.00
A4 display folder	\$	2.00

Accessories – approximate

Flutes	\$	5.00
Clarinets	\$	20.00
Saxophones	\$	20.00
Brass	\$	25.00
Percussion	\$	100.00
String instruments	\$	20.00

Students borrowing School instruments

Hire fee	\$	80.00
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For example: Flute student: Instrumental levy, Tutor Book, Music Stand, Folder, Hire fee = \$187

Learning an instrument privately: 40 lessons for the year, Tutor Books x 2, Music Stand = \$1255

ENSEMBLE UNIFORM

During performances students are expected to wear our new formal band uniform.

Boy:

- Navy Shorts and school formal shirt
- Black shoes with navy socks. (Predominantly black runners or sports shoes are acceptable)

Girls:

- Navy shorts/skirt and school formal shirt or school dress
- Black shoes with navy socks. (Predominantly black runners or sports shoes are acceptable)

ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

Each lesson, students are monitored for home practice, attendance and progress. Playing an instrument requires consistent and persistent effort if students are to succeed.

Each semester a report on Instrumental Music is included in the school reports that go home.

STUDENTS – Please read this section, sign and return

By signing this, you are agreeing to:

1. be part of your group for the YEAR
2. attend rehearsals regularly and ALL performances
3. practice regularly – 5 times a week for 10-15 minutes
4. bring your best effort and your best manners
5. support others to be the best they can be in your group & ensemble

Being part of the Instrumental Music Program is just the same as being part of any team. You can only improve and your ensemble can only perform to its potential if everyone is doing their part and is committed to working at their skills in rehearsals and at home.

By signing this you are demonstrating that you are committed to the journey. Music is a life-long skill. It benefits students in so many ways but most importantly it is one of the greatest gifts you give to yourself and others.

I am committed to being part of my group for the year. I will attend rehearsals and performances, practice regularly, give my best effort and manners and support others in my group.

_____ in _____
(Students name) (class)

Parents and carers

Please ensure music levy is paid upon receipt of invoice by the due date.
Please support your student by being encouraging and patience, by getting them to rehearsals, purchasing the few things they need to get started. Please indicate your support by signing below.

_____ Date: _____
(Parents signature)

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM ENROLMENT APPLICATION

Name: _____ Class: _____
(Student enrolling for 2018) (current class 2017)

These are the instruments my child is interested in trying and we will be guided by the teacher:

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____

We have access to the following instruments:

TERMINATION OF LESSONS:

1. The Principal, in conjunction with the Instrumental Teacher may exclude students who do not make reasonable progress.
2. The Principal in conjunction with the Instrumental Teacher may exclude any student who is absent from lessons, rehearsals, or performances without reason.
3. The Principal in conjunction with the administration staff will terminate lessons if the annual Hire fee or the Instrumental Music levy are not paid by the end of week six of term one each year.
4. Parents may terminate lessons in writing.

I have read the terms of enrolment and agree to abide by them.

Parent _____ Date: _____

Approved _____ Date: _____
Principal

Approved _____ Date: _____
Instrumental Teacher