

HIGHFIELDS STATE SCHOOL



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

BRASS WIND AND PERCUSSION
STRINGS

HANDBOOK

WELCOME TO THE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

General

The instrumental music program provides tuition in concert band instruments and strings. Students have the opportunity to learn an instrument and are encouraged to play an instrument as a lifetime interest. Duration of enrolment is to the end of year seven for the enrolled student. There is no trial period.

THE SELECTION PROCESS

Assessing suitability of students for the program.

Students wishing to be enrolled in the Instrumental Program must have the capability to participate. They should be willing to accept the commitment involved. That commitment is outlined below.

Although the instrumental program is inclusive each student should be able to demonstrate **some** musical aptitude and a clear desire to be involved.

Assessing instrument suitability for students

Students will be assessed for suitability for particular instruments in three ways.

1. Physical characteristics for the instrument: e.g. Arm length, hand span, shape of mouth, jaw and teeth all have a bearing in instrument selection.
2. The degree of musical aptitude in the case the more demanding instruments.
3. Finally there will be some consideration of the balance of instruments in the ensemble.

There will be only two bass guitars and three percussionists allowed to start each year.

Note: Sometimes we recommend a different instrument to the one you requested. This can happen particularly with the flute and trumpet. It is important to have a realistic choice of instruments in mind.



ALLOCATION OF SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS FOR LOAN

There are some instruments for loan to students in the first year of the program. These are the flutes clarinets, trumpets, alto saxophones, trombones and bass guitars. In the strings department there are some violins, violas, cellos and double basses.

The euphonium, tuba, french horn, tenor saxophone and bass clarinet can be loaned for the duration of the student's tuition up to the end of year seven. Cellos and double basses are also available for long term loan.

OBTAINING AN INSTRUMENT BY OTHER MEANS

1. Purchase a new instrument from one of the music shops in Toowoomba or Brisbane. Please consult the instrumental teacher for advice regarding good brands. Ring around for quotes and specials. Interest free terms can be good but **make sure the price you pay at the end is the same as the cash price.**
2. Purchase second hand: Place a 'wanted to buy' add in the Chronicle. The Instrumental Teacher will be glad to advise you and accompany you to check out the instrument. This approach has been surprisingly successful. Or check out Cash Converters or similar, Ebay, and some music shops.
3. Some of your family members, friends, work mates, colleagues and neighbours, have instruments that they may lend you for a time. This is another surprisingly fruitful method and the price is right.
4. Once you have an idea of which brand and model you need type Instrument, Brand and Model into your favourite search engine on the Internet (Australian pages only). You should get a mess of music shops from around Australia.

Always confirm prices on the phone or in writing as the websites you get may be out of date.



WHAT EACH STUDENT NEEDS TO HAVE AFTER SECURING AN INSTRUMENT

Every student will need a

- 'Standard of Excellence' tutor book for brass wind and percussion. OR
String tutor for violin, viola and cello students as directed by the Instrumental teacher.
- Pencil and eraser.
- Music stand for home use.

Accessories

Flute

- Key oil
- 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. 2 reeds for your instrument
- 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

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

Cello

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

REGULAR MAINTENANCE OF INSTRUMENTS

Wind instruments

Daily: Use cork grease

After use: Instruments are to be wiped out on the inside. All fingerprints removed from the keys and body of the instrument using a soft cloth. Saxophones and clarinets must wipe out their mouthpiece with a separate cloth. Do not pull anything through the neck of a saxophone.

Annually: Use key oil on all joints. Use the amount of oil that sticks to the point of a pin.

Brass instruments

Daily: Use valve oil or water to lubricate valves.

After use: Wipe instrument to remove all fingerprints.

Weekly: Wash the inside of instruments. Trumpets and euphoniums need to wash inside the valve casings. Use valve oil and slide grease when replacing sections.



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, hire of buses and the constant updating of the music library that must be recouped. The fees are low when you consider the services received but are vital to the continuation of the Program. 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
Standard of Excellence Tutor Book –approximate. Enhanced edition includes excellent accompaniment CDs	\$	20.00
Music stand – approximate	\$	15.00

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

Band Uniform

In addition to these costs each student is to supply part of the band uniform: black shoes, black pants and a white shirt with a collar. The pants need to be solid black. The shirt needs to be a white shirt in the style of a man's business shirt. The shoes must be solid black. We supply vests and bow ties.

DAY TO DAY

Lessons

Students have half hour group tuition once a week. Their lessons are on a rotating timetable so that the same part of the class routine is not disrupted. They are required to make up whatever work they have missed in their own time

Ensembles

Intermediate and Senior Band rehearsals are scheduled before school in the student's own time. String ensemble is held on Thursday morning before school. All students enjoy performing. The Instrumental Program is band-based program and band rehearsal is part of tuition. Junior band begins in term 3 of year one. Jazz band and wind ensemble are conducted during the group lesson time.

Excursions and Concerts

The various ensembles take part in excursions and school performances every year. Most performances require band uniform.

Assessment and reporting

Students are assessed informally regularly. They must play their pieces from repertoire specified by the Instrumental Music Teacher proficiently: that is, they can play without mistakes and also demonstrate increasing discipline and skill with the finer points of playing. With practice all facets of playing gradually improve. The gradual nature of skill development is sometimes hard to understand by young students.

There is a report card issued every semester. This is a summary of detailed assessment taken in class.

Instrumental Music Parent Support

From time to time we need help, especially around concert time. The most common concerns are helping students with their uniforms and carting equipment to and from venues. Please give those requests some consideration.



TERMS OF ENROLMENT

THE COMMITMENT

Student Commitment

Any student applying for enrolment in the Instrumental Program must be in year five or above for brass wind and percussion or year four for strings and have a suitable concert band or string instrument. They must also be able to:

1. Practice regularly. It is suggest that 3 to 5 times per week is required. The total amount of time should be at least 100 minutes. Students with large instruments will need assistance to transport the instrument to and from school
2. Attend all lessons and rehearsals as required.
3. Attend all performances by the school band.
4. Keep instrument clean and in good repair.
5. Abide by the Instrumental Music Code of Behaviour.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

1. Be ready for your lessons and rehearsals
2. Be on time for lessons and rehearsals
3. Take responsibility for your learning
4. Be courteous to everyone
5. Do everything in a safe way for yourself and others
6. Co-operate with others
7. Be committed to practice
8. Make good choices
9. Show common sense

Parent Commitment

Parents of students in the instrumental program need to:

1. Pay the instrumental music levy and Instrument hire fee where applicable.
2. Supply a suitable instrument for your child.
3. Be supportive of your child's musical training.
4. Arrange a regular time for practice.
5. Assist in the transport of the instrument to and from school.
6. Help maintain and sign the practice record.
7. Reinforce the importance of attending all lessons, concerts, and rehearsals.
8. Purchase all reeds, valve oil, drum sticks, practice pad, resin as required.
9. Be prepared to pay for any accidental damage to any school instrument that you have loaned from the school.

The application for enrolment form is attached and you are welcome to apply.

***JNSTRUMENTAL MUSJC PROGRAM
APPLICATION FOR ENROLMENT***

Name
Class
1st choice
2 nd choice

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

Approved Principal Instrumental Teacher