



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Handbook



Eagle Junction State School

Instrumental Music

Instrumental Music is an enrichment program offered by the Department of Education as an extension of the classroom music program. Students receive professional tuition on a wide variety of instruments from String, Brass, Woodwind and Percussion. The Department of Education Instrumental Music program is recognised nationally and internationally as one of the most comprehensive and accessible music education programs available.

If your child is accepted into the program, tuition is free for the entirety of their involvement through both primary and secondary school. Students interested in the String program can be accepted from Year 3 and students interested in the Brass, Woodwind or Percussion program can be accepted from Year 4.

Selection and recruitment for the Instrumental Music program happens annually in terms 3 and 4 and involves a variety of assessments and a strict recruitment process due to very limited available places.

Instrumental Music is one of the most dynamic and active programs that is run by the school and, therefore, requires considerable commitment on the part of students and their families. It is for this reason, though, that it is also one of the most rewarding long-term activities that a young student can undertake.

Benefits of Quality Music Education

Numerous studies since the 1950s have consistently concluded that students immersed in a quality program of music tuition develop: cultural awareness; self-confidence; academic improvement; team building and leadership skills; organisation; time management; fine motor skills, and; an outlet for personal expression.

Instruments Offered

Strings - Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass

Brass - Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Baritone, Tuba

Woodwind - Flute, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Oboe, Bassoon

Percussion - Tuned and Untuned (taught together)

It is important to carefully consider which program your child would like to join as *swapping programs* (eg. from Strings to Brass) at primary school is not permitted. Participating in multiple programs (eg. Strings and Woodwind) is rare and very strictly controlled by the school.

Instrumental Music Staff

Instrumental Music teachers are employed by the Department of Education and allocated to schools on a circuit based on their teaching fraction (eg. full-time or part-time). Instrumental Music teachers are trained professionals who are often multi-skilled and teach a variety of instruments. Being itinerant means that each teacher provides the Instrumental Music service to multiple schools – a full time Instrumental Music teacher, for example, can work at between 3-10 schools each week on their circuit covering between 200-250 students.

It is for this reason that each school is required to provide an Instrumental Music Coordinator, who is usually a full-time member of staff permanently at the school. The Instrumental Music Coordinator is the person who ensures the Instrumental Music program is implemented correctly within the school.



Our Instrumental Music members of staff are:

Instrumental Music Coordinator - Mrs Angela Dawson

Strings Teacher - Mr Mark Boughen

Woodwind/Brass/Percussion Teacher - Ms Jaime Fixter

Program Implementation

The Instrumental Music program offers a once per week 30-minute small group (3-10 students) lesson, usually on a set day of the week. The timetable usually rotates this lesson throughout the school day from week to week, so students do not miss the same portion of class time each week. Ensemble rehearsals take place before or after school for one hour per week on the same day as the student's lesson.

Students are allocated homework (practice exercises, solos, ensemble music, etc.) each week, which is expected to be completed for the following lesson.

Instrumental Music teachers implement an annual work program which is linked to the Australian Curriculum. The learning of individual students and groups of students are catered for in terms of ability, progress and stage of development.

Ensembles

One of the overall goals of the Instrumental Music program is to create performance ensembles. At primary school, these include, but are not limited to, Junior Concert Band (Year 4), Senior Concert Band (Years 5 and 6), and String Ensemble. Students become members of ensembles when their Instrumental Music teacher deems them suitable and this becomes a compulsory element of a student's participation in Instrumental Music. Ensembles are the public face of a school and creating quality results requires weekly rehearsals and regular performances both at school and in the wider community throughout the year.

Rehearsal days and times are indicated on your child's Instrumental Music timetable and dates/times for performances are advertised in the school newsletter, the Term Calendar on the school website and via permission notes and/or email communication.

Regular Performances

The Instrumental Music program has a variety of commitments/ performances throughout the year, some of which include:

- School-based ensemble performances (Soiree, assemblies, Awards Ceremony)
- Music Festivals (Fanfare) and Competitions (Music Fest)
- Instrumental Music Camps (Junior and Honours)
- Public Ensemble Performance

Roles/Responsibilities/Commitment

The three stakeholders (school, student, family) all have a role to play in the effective implementation of the Instrumental Music program. Learning a musical instrument takes many years of practice and dedication which is why the Instrumental Music program is designed to be implemented across 9-10 years (primary and secondary schooling). Learning in Instrumental Music is cumulative – attending lessons, performances, rehearsals, camps and regular home practise is crucial to development, enjoyment and success. Students are required to remain in the program until the end of Year 6.



Schools - Provide free small group tuition (primary and secondary), an instrument for the first year, sheet music, ensemble experience and music resources (music stands, chairs, lesson and performance/rehearsal facilities).

Students - Practise regularly (minimum **4-5 days** per week of goal-orientated practise), attend all lessons, ensemble rehearsals and performances, remain in the program for the entire year, provide appropriate care and maintenance of your instrument.

Families - Provide an instrument for your child **after their first year** of learning (exceptions apply for the larger, more expensive instruments), provide your child with all necessary items (method book, cleaning/maintenance equipment, music stand, etc.), provide a quiet place and regular time for your child to practise without interruption, discuss regularly the importance of commitment/diligence/perseverance, assist and encourage your child to be punctual to lessons/rehearsals/performances, encourage and support your child in their musical performances at home/school/public.

At the beginning and/or end of each year, each student and their parents are required to complete an Instrumental Music Enrolment Agreement and a Musical Instrument Loan Agreement (if using a school-owned instrument). These will be provided by the school.

Discontinuing the program

It is vital that parents communicate with the Instrumental Teacher (an initial email is best) when issues start to arise. Please do not leave it until the issue becomes a 'big one'. We aim to work together and make adjustment for students as necessary. We aim to work together to address issues.

Process To Discontinue the Program (this will occur rarely)

1. Contact the Instrumental Music Teacher to make a meeting time to discuss concerns.
2. Once meeting is held, the student, parent and music teacher will then work together (for an agreed time) to address the concerns. The student will attend all lessons, rehearsals and performances during this time.
3. If by the end of the agreed time the concerns are still causing issues for the student and/or family a meeting with the Deputy Principal will be organised.
4. If approved by the Deputy Principal then the student will be released from their commitment to the Instrumental Program.

The Instrumental Music Teacher, in consultation with the Principal and/or Deputy Principal, has the right to remove a student from the program with reasonable grounds to do so. Reasonable grounds would include; lack of home practice, continual absence from lessons, rehearsals or performances, continual 'forgetfulness' of music and/or instrument, lack of commitment to the program.

Instrument Care

Musical instruments are often intricate pieces of equipment that require specific knowledge to repair. However, basic maintenance is manageable and expected of all students. Students are taught how to do this at the beginning and throughout their learning. Detailed information can also be found in the student method book. Any work required that is not covered in the method book should only be completed by the Instrumental Music teacher or a recommended instrument repairer.

If specialist repair work on a school-owned instrument is required throughout the year, the instrument is to be returned to the school immediately so this can be organised by school staff.



Music Support Group

The Instrumental Music program is a large program within the school and is staffed with itinerant specialist teachers who service many schools. Our school operates a Music Support Group which oversees the implementation and coordination of the program throughout each school year. The Group is made up of administration members, music staff, instrumental music staff and parents. Parents are encouraged to become actively involved in the Music Support Group to provide assistance at rehearsals and performances. Parental involvement is invaluable to the school, and we hope you can contribute. The commitment is not onerous, and you do not need specific musical knowledge to contribute. The Music Support Group meets throughout the year to discuss many items, including events, performances and the program.

Instrumental Music Student Resource Scheme Fee

The objective of the Student Resource Scheme (SRS) is to provide a convenient and cost-effective way for students to access educational resources necessary to enhance their learning experience at school.

The Student Resource Scheme - Levy supports the delivery of the Instrumental Music program by covering essential items and services. This includes the Instrumental Music District Levy, lesson materials (eg sheet music), printing/photocopying, and consumable emergency supplies such as slide/valve oil, reeds, neck straps, and chin rests.

The SRS Levy is payable by all students participating in the Instrumental Music program.

The **Student Resource Scheme - Hire Fee** contribute towards the annual servicing of school-owned instruments. This servicing covers general wear and tear due to normal use. Please note: this fee does not cover damage resulting from misuse, neglect, or abuse. It also does not replace the requirement for students to purchase their own maintenance and cleaning items (eg cloths, oils, reeds, etc), which remain the responsibility of parents/carers.

The Student Resource Scheme is invoiced at the beginning of the new school year and is payable by the end of Term 1.

The annual Student Resource Scheme Fee is organised accordingly:

a. Student Resource Scheme - Levy

\$20 - levy per student

b. Student Resource Scheme - Hire Fees

\$0 - own instrument

\$80 - percussion instruments

\$150 - all other instruments

For example, if:

- a student brings their own flute, their overall cost will be \$20 (SRS levy).
- a student hires percussion instruments, the cost will be \$20 (SRS levy) plus \$80 (Hire Fee) - overall cost is \$100.
- a student hires a flute, the cost will be \$20 (SRS levy) plus \$150 (Hire Fee) - overall cost is \$170.

