INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC HANDBOOK

2015
Aims of the Instrumental Music Program

To Provide:

- Opportunities for musical development of students through instruction on a group basis
- Ensemble experience so that students develop ensemble performance skills as an integrated part of their music education. This will be provided through student participation in one of the school band or string ensembles.
- Opportunities for students to perform in public
- An extra dimension to the overall school music program
- Added social and mental stimulation for students

Instrumental Music Programs Conducted at Ashmore State School

Entry into the **band** program occurs from **Year 4**

- Woodwind-
  - Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone
- Brass-
  - Trumpet, Euphonium, Trombone
- Percussion-
  - Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Auxiliary Percussion, Bass Guitar

Entry into the **string** program occurs from **Year 3**

- Violin
- Viola
- Cello
- Double Bass

**Instruments**

Students with their own instrument will be automatically accepted into the program. For those without, school instruments are available for hire for the first year of tuition. After this time, parents are encouraged to purchase or externally hire an instrument, so that school owned instruments are available to students joining the program in the following year. More expensive instruments such as double bass, bass clarinet, euphonium, tenor saxophone etc. are available for the full duration of the students’ involvement in the program.

Care of school instruments is the responsibility of the student and his/her family.

Whilst at school, instruments should not be left within classrooms or with teachers, but in the designated area; the storeroom located in the music block. Students are to make acceptable arrangements with music teachers in regard to drop-off and pick up times.

Students are required to bring their instrument and other required equipment for all lessons and rehearsals.
Tuition

- One half hour lesson is provided each week free of charge
- Weekly ensemble rehearsals occur outside of school hours with the possibility of additional rehearsals during preparation for performances.

Student Selection

Students have been selected through a range of testing criteria including:

- a test of musicality carried out by the school music teacher
- a test of physical suitability to instruments conducted by the instrumental music teacher
- References by class teachers about behaviour and work habits

A letter is sent home towards the end of term four to notify students of the instrument they have been selected to play. Instrument selection is subject to:

- Student preference
- Physical suitability
- Instrument availability

Attendance

Each year students re-enrol for the program with the understanding that membership and commitment is for the whole year.

Students are expected to attend all lessons with their instrument, music and any other relevant material. They are expected to participate fully in all lessons; and in ensemble practices and performances. If students have a genuine reason for absence, they are to bring a signed note from home.

If the student is ceasing enrolment in the program due to unforeseen circumstances, the music teachers must be notified in writing, and any equipment on loan returned.

Communication

Due to the itinerant nature of an instrumental music teacher’s timetable, and the timeframe they have in which to conduct lessons, it can be difficult to contact them without disturbing valuable learning time.

Email is the most efficient form of communication, as this can be accessed regardless of staff location.

Justin Hart- jhart198@eq.edu.au  
Teena Sullivan- tsull86@eq.edu.au
(all enquiries relating to band)  (all enquiries relating to strings)

If you wish to speak face to face or by phone, please contact the front office and leave your name and contact details. The teacher will contact you as soon as possible to attend to your needs.
Financial Commitment

Whilst tuition is free there is a cost for program provision. This amount covers the cost of music scores, photocopying, music stands and other expendable items. This cost is payable for all students.

If payments are not received within the allocated times the instrument may be reallocated to another student. Instruction at the beginning of the year will commence after the payment of the yearly cost is made, together with the enrolment form.

Purchasing your own instrument

If you are considering purchasing your own instrument, please consult the instrumental music teacher before purchasing regarding prices, retailers and quality. While there are some very cheap instruments available, these aren’t always the best and most cost effective instruments for long-term playing. They have poor re-sale value, require more frequent repairing and can often be more difficult for beginners to play.

Other Costs

- Consumable items such as
  - Reeds for clarinets and saxophones
  - Valve oil for brass instruments
  - Rosin for string instruments

- Purchase of music text
  - Books for band and strings will be advised shortly

- A cheap music stand for home practice
- Transport of students to some performances, workshops etc.
- Repairs to or replacement of instrument if damaged other than through normal wear and tear (for school instruments)
- Repairs and upkeep for privately owned instruments
Student Commitment and Practice

Accepting a position in the instrumental music program requires commitment. We expect that students taking a position in the instrumental program will maintain consistent attendance at lessons and ensembles for at least one year.

The expectation for instrumental students is that practice is occurring regularly - a minimum of five times per week. We set a benchmark for beginners of 10-15 minutes of practice for each session.

Parental Commitment

Being a parent of a beginner musician is not always easy on the ears! It is likely that you will hear some very unusual sounds from your child as they begin to develop their instrumental technique. Parental encouragement of your child’s musical development through support of his/her instrumental practice is very beneficial. This can be done through setting a routine, and by providing a quiet location that is free from distractions.

Thanks for your interest in the instrumental music program here at Ashmore State School!

Justin Hart
Multi Instrumental Teacher
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Amanda Fry
Deputy Principal

Margaret James
Principal
Did you know....

Students who participate in music-

More cooperative with teachers and peers, more self-confident, and better able to express their ideas

Less likely to have discipline problems

Achieve higher test scores, regardless of socioeconomic background

Better plan, sequence, and coordinate actions in their daily lives.

Make faster and more precise corrections in many academic and physical situations