



Instrumental Music Program Information Booklet

This booklet is to provide parents/caregivers and students with information about the **Instrumental Music Program** at Murrumba State Secondary College.
Please retain this booklet for your information

CHECKLIST

1. Read the following booklet.
2. Complete the **Instrumental Music Commitment Agreement** at the back. Tear off the Agreement and return it to one of the music staff listed below.
3. If a College instrument is required, complete the included EQ11 and submit to your child's instrumental teacher.
4. Have your student check the window at L103 to confirm lesson groups and times and collect their Music Passport.

Please do not attempt to pay fees until you have received an invoice from the College.

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Instrumental Music Program Guidelines and Conditions

General

The **Instrumental Music Program** was established by the Department of Education to give all students an opportunity to learn a musical instrument. Specialist Instrumental Music Teachers appointed to the College by Department of Education provide tuition to students.

1. SELECTION

The selection process for students to enter into the Instrumental Program is as follows:

- Parental consent/commitment
- Classroom ability
- Classroom music ability
- The student's attitude and physical attributes

The student's classroom academic ability, cooperation, reliability, ability to work independently and in groups are all considered when determining their suitability for the program.

The student's willingness to learn, musical aptitude, physical attributes pertinent to a particular instrument, commitment to regular attendance at lessons, rehearsals and performances are also taken into consideration.

The Instrumental Music Teachers will recommend an instrument for each student. Once parents are in agreement with this choice, students are encouraged to continue with that instrument until they exit at the end of Year 12.

2. INSTRUMENTS

The College has a number of instruments that can be loaned to beginning and approved students enrolled in the program. Loan fees for College instruments are payable at the commencement of the year and instruments will be distributed to students once the loan fees have been paid and appropriate forms are returned. All students are encouraged to purchase their own instrument as soon as possible to guarantee uninterrupted continuance in their tuition and the program.

Parents who have children learning a larger instrument are not expected to purchase an instrument. These students may continue to hire their instruments. Instruments must be returned at the end of each year on a date specified by the relevant Instrumental Music Teacher.

This procedure of rentals ensures that each year we are able to give new students the opportunity to join the Instrumental Music Program. Students with their own instruments are welcome to join the Instrumental Music Program provided a vacancy exists.

When parents are considering the purchase of an instrument for their child, it is important that they consult their child's teacher before making any purchases. The brand and other specifications need to be carefully considered to ensure the instrument provides good service with a minimum of problems.

3. EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORM

Students are required to purchase the tutor book as stipulated by their teachers at the start of the year. These are not available through the College. As students advance, they will be required to purchase supplementary music material, which you will be advised of when needed.

Ancillary expenses (including reeds, joint and valve lubricant, rosin and shoulder rests) are the responsibility of parents. These items can be purchased at a music store. Specific needs for each instrument group are as follows:

Woodwind:

This group of instruments includes Clarinet, Flute, Oboe, Bass Clarinet & Saxophones.

Woodwind students will require three reeds of a size specified by the instructor (flutes do not require these), cork grease and a pull-through cleaner or cleaning rod and cloth (flute only).

Brass:

This group of instruments includes Trumpets/Cornets, Trombones, Euphoniums, Baritones and French Horn.

Brass students will require slide grease and a water-sprayer (Trombones only) or valve oil. Cleaning brushes and polishing cloths are also required and need to be purchased according to instrument.

Percussion:

Percussion instruments include tuned instruments such as Glockenspiel, Xylophone, etc. and un-tuned instruments, which include all drums.

Percussion students will require a Natural Rebound practice pad and a pair of size 5B drumsticks. A chromatic Glockenspiel may also be helpful to students, but students will be advised of what to purchase upon commencement of lessons.

String Instruments:

Instruments of the string family include Violin, Viola, Cello and Double Bass.

Students learning a stringed instrument will be required to purchase a soft cleaning cloth, rosin and spare strings for their instrument. A shoulder rest will be required for students playing the Violin or Viola. A rock-stop or a board will be required for students playing the Cello or Double Bass.

General Requirements:

The easiest way to ensure your child has all the cleaning equipment necessary for their instrument is to purchase a cleaning kit, which should contain all of the required accessories. All of the above purchases remain the property of the student and can be used for future instruments.

Parents should purchase a music stand for their child to use at home, as this will prevent incorrect development of posture and improve general practise skills.

All program members are required to have a sharp pencil and rubber and a black display folder. These folders are essential to protecting and preventing loss of the students' sheet music.

Uniforms:

All students in the program are required to wear the full formal uniform (adhering to the College dress standards) at all performances. This is the same for all the ensembles at Murrumba State Secondary College.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC FEES

All students entering the Instrumental Music Program pay a fee at the beginning of the year. This is then used for the purchase and copying of music for student use. Students who are hiring a College instrument are also required to pay an instrument hire fee. The loan fee is used for the repair, servicing and replacement of equipment and the enhancement of the instruments.

Fees applicable to the **Instrumental Music Program** are outlined in the 2019 High Resource Fees Matrix and are payable within 3 weeks of lessons commencing. Lessons will be suspended should payment not be received in a timely manner.

Please Note: Instrumental Music fees are non-refundable to students who exit the program during the school year.

Conditions of Hire:

- The parent/caregiver is responsible for any damage caused through mistreatment of the instrument.
- The parent is responsible for the loss of a College instrument.
- The hire is only available in the student's first year of the program (with exceptions made for Cello, Double Bass, Baritone, French Horn, Euphonium, Bass Clarinet and Tenor Saxophone).
- Consumables such as rosin, reeds, lubricants, etc. are NOT covered under the contribution scheme.

Fees:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--|---------|
| - Instrumental Music Levy | (all students to pay) | \$60.00 |
| - Instrument Hire / Loan | (only students using a College owned instrument) | \$60.00 |

You will be invoiced on return of Instrumental Agreement Contract (below) and EQ11 (instrument loan agreement) if applicable.

4. LESSONS

The lessons are conducted during school hours, once a week. Each of these lessons is 35 minutes in length and is conducted on a group basis consisting of 3-6 students learning together. On occasions, these groups will be a mixture of instrument types.

If a student is unable to attend a lesson due to class commitments or other unusual circumstances, the Instrumental Music Teacher must be notified before the lesson so alternatives can be arranged.

Students will be issued a Music Passport, which is required to be shown to classroom teachers enabling students to leave class and attend lessons. If students cannot produce their music Passport, classroom teachers are under no obligation to allow students to leave. Music Passports will also be used to record notes and weekly practice tasks.

STUDENTS WHO DO NOT BRING THEIR INSTRUMENT TO SCHOOL MUST ATTEND THEIR LESSON AND REHEARSAL. IF THREE OR MORE LESSONS PER TERM ARE MISSED WITHOUT NOTICE, THE STUDENT MAY BE EXCLUDED FROM THE PROGRAM.

5. STUDENT/PARENT COMMITMENT

Department of Education's recommendations is that instrumental students practice for 30 minutes, 5 days a week. Beginning students however will not necessarily have sufficient knowledge to require 30 minutes of practice. Therefore, beginning students are only required to practise 15 minutes per day. Regularity of practice is far more important than accumulated practise time and instructors will regularly check that practice contracts have been fulfilled. Failure on the student's behalf to practise will ultimately result in the student being excluded from the program.

Every student must agree to:

- Practise regularly (at least 5 out of 7 days for half an hour each time)
- Become a member of the relevant ensemble (Concert Band or String Ensemble) when the instructor indicates the student is ready
- Take part in all concerts and camps
- Attend lessons and rehearsals regularly as required. Instrumental music teachers monitor attendance. Missed lessons or rehearsals require a note addressed to the relevant instructor. If a student does not observe College policy on attendance at lessons or rehearsals, their instruction and participation may be cancelled.

Parents are required to:

- Provide a suitable instrument (where and when applicable) and keep it in good repair
- Find a quiet place for the student to practise without interruption
- Arrange a regular time for practice
- Listen to and help with practice
- Promote the care of the instrument
- Provide tutor books and other ancillary items where and when necessary
- ENCOURAGE your child to be punctual for lessons and rehearsals
- ENCOURAGE your child to play for others whenever possible
- NEVER make fun of any strange sounds they might make
- Contribute to the appropriate Instrumental Music Contribution Scheme

6. REPAIR

The parent/caregiver must meet repair costs resulting from negligence or wilful damage by a student. The cost of annually servicing instruments owned by Department of Education will be met by the College.

7. PERFORMANCES

Performances are opportunities for students to show the outcomes of their hard work. The College ensemble groups will play at various functions throughout the year. Included in these events are College concerts, eisteddfods, external concerts and special occasions. It is expected that those students who are members of these groups will be available. Some performances may be scheduled outside of College hours and some will also include the playing of the Australian National Anthem.

8. CAMPS & WORKSHOPS

Opportunities for students to attend camps or workshops of excellence may arise during the course of the year. The costs of these camps are kept as low as possible and your child's teachers will pass information.

9. TERMINATION OF LESSONS

Students are expected to complete 12 months' tuition from when they join the program. During this time, a student can discontinue lessons through two methods. These are:

- a. You may remove your student at your own discretion by forwarding a letter to the Instrumental Music Coordinator.
- b. The music coordinator in conjunction with the principal and instrumental teachers may exclude students from tuition if they do not make steady progress through lack of either practice, attendance or aptitude, or if they do not consistently attend rehearsals or concerts.

PLEASE NOTE: in both of these cases, the contribution fee is not refundable.

10. DEVELOPMENTAL PLAN

As part of our long-term developmental plan for Instrumental Music, we are striving to enhance the performance quality of our ensembles.

To achieve this we will:

- Encourage commitment of students and their parents;
- Provide quality instruments for our College loan program;
- Purchase a range of the more expensive instruments that will help to enrich the sound of our performance groups.
- Target and identify potential new students for recruitment and inclusion

FURTHER INFORMATION

Should you require any clarification or information not detailed in this booklet, please contact the Music Faculty at the College.

As our Instrumental Music Teachers are not always at Murrumba State Secondary College, questions will be passed on to the relevant instructor who will answer your query as soon as possible.