

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

INFORMATION BOOKLET

2016



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Instrumental Music Program Information Booklet

St Joseph's offers students in Year 3 and higher the opportunity to learn wind, brass and percussion instruments within the school educational program. Due to the comprehension and focus required to learn the Acoustic Guitar and Piano, lessons are offered to all students in Year 2 and higher. If you feel that your child in Prep or Year 1 has the above mentioned attributes, the instrumental music teacher will be willing to discuss with you whether your child is suited to commence Piano or Acoustic Guitar lessons. Acoustic Guitar lessons can be in a group or private setting. Piano lessons are private lessons only. The benefits of learning to play a musical instrument are well documented. Music participation enhances teamwork, goal setting, self-expression, coordination, self-confidence, concentration and much more.

The instruments currently taught in this program are Flute, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Bass Guitar, and Percussion, including the Glockenspiel, Piano and Acoustic Guitar.

Other instruments like Tenor Saxophone, Baritones, Euphoniums and Tubas are highly desirable in a school band but are more expensive to hire. Please speak to the instrumental teacher about these if you want more information.

At the back of this booklet are *enrolment forms* for the program. If you have read the details of the program and are interested in enrolling please complete a form and return it to the school office.

Costs

Group lessons are offered at a cost of \$10 per lesson and payment is made directly to the instrumental music teacher each term by the account due date. Private (one on one) lessons will be \$20. No refunds are available if the student is absent. Accounts are to be paid within 30 days of receiving the invoice. Invoices will be e-mailed directly to the parent from the instrumental music teacher. If e-mail is not a viable option please feel free to discuss other options with the instrumental music teacher.

Group size is limited to four. Groups are organized on the basis of similar levels of proficiency on their instrument and may be re-evaluated after the first semester.

There are several instruments available for hire through the school at a cost of \$5.00 a week. These include 2 Clarinets, 2 Trumpets, 3 Flutes, 2 Saxophones, 1 Bass Clarinet, 2 Trombones and 1 Bass Guitar. NB. Acoustic guitars are not available for hire.

Lesson Times

Half hour lessons are held weekly, in class time, on a rotating timetable. Each teacher receives a copy of the timetable at the beginning of each term and it is the student's responsibility to make sure they are at the lessons.

REQUIREMENTS

INSTRUMENT

Purchasing

You may choose to buy your own instrument or you may already have one. Buying a second hand instrument can be a good alternative but we suggest you take the instrument to a qualified repairer for their opinion on quality and price.

Renting

Locally Green Brothers Music in Rockhampton has hire instruments and offers a good buy out scheme after 6 months.

Renting a school instrument

The school has 2 Clarinets, 2 Trumpets, 3 Flutes, 2 Saxophones, 1 Bass Clarinet, 2 Trombones and 1 Bass Guitar, which are available for hire. The hire fee is \$5.00 per week and these instruments are hired on a semester basis. (This will be added to your school fees).

The instruments are allocated based on the date the application form is received at the office. While the instrument is hired you will be responsible for repairs. For the clarinets and saxophone you will need to supply your own reeds.

The allocation of the bass guitar may also depend on the suitability of the students for the instrument and the final decision will be made by the school if several applicants apply.

All instruments come with extra items necessary for using and caring for the instrument. These are listed on the instrument case and if lost or damaged are required to be replaced. Please feel free to discuss the suitability and availability of instruments with the instrumental music teacher.

TUITION BOOK

The school uses the “Standard of Excellence” series as the tuition books. Each instrument has a separate book and the first book, “Standard of Excellence - Book 1”, more commonly known as the red book, is available through the school library. When students reach “Standard of Excellence - Book 2”, more commonly known as the blue book, on average after 1-2 years, you will need to purchase your own book. A note will be sent out to the parent/s when their child progresses onto the “Standard of Excellence – Book 2”.

If your child is participating in acoustic guitar or piano lessons you will need to purchase all of the books necessary for their lessons. I am able to provide these books and charge the cost to your term account.

FOLDER

Students need to keep practice sheets in a pocket folder or a display folder.

Requirements for specific instruments

♫ Clarinet & Saxophone

You will need to purchase reeds for these instruments. Beginners normally start with 1½ size and gradually move up the sizes to 2 then 2½ etc. It is a good idea to have a reed a size larger to try out periodically. As students mouth muscles strengthen, stronger reeds are required. You will need cork grease to apply to the cork joints on the instrument. New instruments can be particularly difficult to assemble. A cleaning cloth is also necessary, as the instrument should be cleaned after each session of playing. These cloths are specially designed and should be purchased if you don't have one.

♫ Trumpet

You will need valve oil and slide cream for the trumpet. The valves need oiling regularly to avoid sticking. A few drops of oil on each valve is sufficient and it is important to replace the valves to their exact orientation, otherwise the instrument will not work. A small amount of slide cream should be applied to the tuning slide occasionally. The tuning slide should be left closed when the instrument is not being played to avoid corrosion. A polishing cloth is important for buffing the metal.

♫ Trombone

The trombone slide needs regular lubrication. Slide oil or lubricant sprays are available and should be used in every practice session. Some slide cream on the tuning slide will be necessary on occasion. The tuning slide should be left closed when the instrument is not in use to prevent corrosion. A polishing cloth is important for buffing the metal.

♫ Percussion

You will need to purchase drumsticks. There is a large range available at music stores and students can choose whatever suits them. You will need a snare drum and/or drum practice pad for home practice. During lesson times students will use the school drums and other percussion instruments so there is no need to bring the snare to school.

♫ Glockenspiel

If your child can play the piano but is interested in playing with the band they may like to learn to play the glockenspiel, as it is very similar to a piano keyboard. A small glockenspiel, similar to the ones that are used in classroom music, is needed for home practice. The school has 2 performance glockenspiels and these are used in lesson time so there is no need to bring your glockenspiel to school for lessons.

♫ Acoustic Guitar

As an acoustic guitar is a stringed instrument it is important to have a set of spare strings for the guitar. When you purchase your guitar the salesperson will be able to let you know which strings you will need. Not all guitars are the same and there are many different types of strings available. If you already own a guitar you can either take the instrument to a music store or I can let you know which strings are required for your guitar.

♫ Piano

If your child is participating in private piano lessons they must have an instrument to practice on at home. There is a piano at the school which students will use for lessons.

Practice

It is expected that the students practice for a minimum of **one hour per week**. This can be in one session or in shorter more frequent sessions. The latter is preferable for brass instruments. Also, if your child is learning a brass instrument there is a number of mutes available from music stores that allow your child to practice with a much softer instrument. The school does not provide mutes.

Uniforms

Students in the band will be required to have a white shirt, black trousers/ long skirt and dark shoes as part of the formal band uniform. A band *vest* will be issued to each band member for performances and these needs to be returned after the performance. They are kept at the school at all times unless a special arrangement is made.

Band

As students reach an appropriate level of proficiency on their instrument they are invited to join the band. As each student learns differently the time that this level is achieved can vary.

Performances

The band performs several times per year and, where possible, is it important to prioritize these events. We always perform at the following events.

- ♫ Eisteddfod
- ♫ Show holiday – normally at 11am
- ♫ St Joseph's Fair – November
- ♫ Biloela Shoppingworld – Christmas Carols

We also perform the National Anthem and Happy Birthday on assembly every Monday morning.

Eisteddfod

In Eisteddfod week, participation in the band or attending the competition is considered the lesson for the week. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in the eisteddfod as individuals, duets, etc. The teacher will discuss this with students at the beginning of the year and the appropriate paperwork will be completed. A letter will be sent home at the beginning of Term 1 to inform parent/s of the choices available to students. The eisteddfod program will be released after all the entries have been submitted to the eisteddfod committee and a letter will be sent home to inform parent/s of the dates and times of the student's performances. If you want to have a copy of the eisteddfod program you will be able to purchase an Eisteddfod program at Toys Galore in Kariboe Street, showing session times and when the individual performances are scheduled.

Optional Requirements

- ♫ CD

An accompanying CD is available for the Standard of Excellence series. Most students progress more quickly when using the CD for home practice on a regular basis. It is particularly useful for trombone and trumpet players.

♪ *Music stand*

It is important that beginner instrumentalists play with good posture with the music in the right position. Music stands vary in price but an adequate one for home practice costs \$20 - \$30.

♪ *Instrument stand*

All wind instruments have stands available. These are useful if you don't want to pack away the instrument all the time. An instrument left out on a stand is more likely to be picked up, although this may not be possible if younger members of the family are about.

Enrolment

This year there are four (4) enrolment forms available:

- ♪ The first is for new student enrolment for Wind, Brass and Percussion instruments.
- ♪ The second is for new student enrolment for Acoustic Guitar.
- ♪ The third is for new student enrolment for Piano.
- ♪ The fourth is for continuing student enrolment for all instruments. This form is important as it lets me know of your child's intention to continue lessons on their chosen instrument.

Please note: if I have not received an enrolment form for your child they will not be given a place in the instrument program next year. All enrolment forms need to be returned to the office by Friday, 6th November 2015 as this gives the instrumental teacher time to arrange timetables and complete the necessary paperwork to inform all parents of their child's acceptance into the program.

Please print one of the following four enrolment forms and hand it into the office.

Thanks.

**Meghan Wilton
Instrumental Music Teacher**

Instrumental Program
New Student Enrolment Form for 2016
(Wind, Brass and Percussion Instruments)

Student's name _____ **Class (2015):** _____

My child/ren would like to play My second
choice would be

Costs

I understand group lessons are offered at a cost of \$10 per lesson. No refunds are available if the student is absent.

A) I have or am arranging my own instrument

OR

B) I am interested in the school instrument loan system

I give permission for my son/daughter to attend lessons during school time.

Parent's/carer's name

(This is the name that will be written on the invoice).

Parent's signature Phone number

E-mail address.....

Completed at school office

Date received Time received

Received by

Guitar Lessons
New Student Enrolment Form for 2016

Student's name _____ **Class (2015):** _____

My child/ren would like to learn the acoustic guitar.

Costs

I understand group lessons are offered at a cost of \$10 per lesson in small groups. No refunds are available if the student is absent. Private lessons are available at \$20 per lessons. My child/ren have their own guitar.

A) I would like my child/ren to have lessons in a small group

OR

B) I would like my child/ren to have private lessons

I give permission for my son/daughter to attend lessons during school time.

Parent's/carer's name:

(This is the name that will be written on the invoice).

Parent's signature Phone number

E-mail address.....

Completed at school office

Date received Time received

Received by

Piano Lessons
New Student Enrolment Form for 2016

Student's name _____ **Class (2015):** _____

My child/ren would like to learn the piano.

Costs

I understand piano lessons are available at \$20 per lessons. My child has their own piano to practice at home each week.

I give permission for my son/daughter to attend lessons during school time.

Parent's/carer's name:

(This is the name that will be written on the invoice).

Parent's signature Phone number

E-mail address.....

Completed at school office

Date received Time received

Received by

Instrumental Program
Continuing Student/s Enrolment Form for 2016
(All Instruments)

Student/s name _____ **Class (2015):** _____

My child/ren would like to continue to play their chosen instrument:

Name: Instrument:.....

Name: Instrument:.....

Costs

I understand group lessons are offered at a cost of \$10 per group lesson and \$20 per private lesson. No refunds are available if the student is absent.

My child/ren has their own instrument. I understand that they may not be able to continue instrument hire as school instruments will be offered to new students first.

I give permission for my son/daughter to attend lessons during school time.

Parent's/carer's name

(This is the name that will be written on the invoice).

Parent's signature Phone number

E-mail address.....

Completed at school office

Date received Time received

Received by