

Sandgate District State High School



Instrumental Music Program Handbook

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Current as per 28 January 2026

Instrumental Music Program Overview

Music is a unique and integral part of life. It has the capacity to inspire all students' creativity and imagination, engage them in the art of expression, immerse them in a language and history that is rich in culture, provide them with opportunities beyond the classroom and excite them about life and learning. The skills, concepts and attitudes that students acquire as a result of music education benefit them not only during their schooling but also in the years beyond, whatever their chosen career path.

Sandgate District State High School has a long and proud tradition in music education. Since the early 1960's there have been many active music performance groups and our young musicians continue to be excellent ambassadors for our school and local community.

Aims of the Instrumental Music Program

The overarching aim of the Instrumental Music Program is to provide students with the opportunity to become musicians and experience the expressive qualities of music through learning to play a band or orchestral instrument and to participate in performance ensembles including concert bands and orchestras. The aims of the Instrumental Music Program at Sandgate District State High School are to:

- Provide an extra dimension to the school's music programs ensuring that educational outcomes are maximised for all students.
- Provide an opportunity for musical development of students through instrumental instruction on a group basis.
- Provide ensemble experience for students that develop ensemble performance skills as an integral part of their music education through: Concert Bands, Orchestras, String Orchestras, Stage Bands and other ensembles.

Music Staff

Head of Department

Mrs. Julia Lennon jlenn65@eq.edu.au ph.: 3869 9807

Classroom Music Teachers

Ms Zena Burgess zibur0@eq.edu.au
Miss Amy Kubler alkub0@eq.edu.au
Mr Robert Smith rwsmi0@eq.edu.au

Instrumental Music Teachers

Mr Mik Van Poelgeest	Brass Specialist (Wed)	mvanp2@eq.edu.au
Mrs Julianne Schick	Woodwind Specialist (Tues PM, Fri)	jschi56@eq.edu.au
Ms Rebecca Moore	String Specialist (Thurs)	rmoor168@eq.edu.au
Mr Brenden Schick	Percussion Specialist (Mon)	bschi37@eq.edu.au

Communication

Instrumental Music staff will communicate via email to parents and students throughout the year, please check these often. Students have pigeonholes in QG17 that will be used to post letters, music and important information.

The Music Faculty has an 'open door' policy with regards communications with parents and students. Students may come to the Arts staffroom in Q block during any school break to speak to teachers or leave messages.

Owing to teaching commitments, teachers may not be immediately available to take telephone calls, but calls will be returned as soon as possible.

Enrolment Policy

All students entering our school from a Department of Education instrumental music program will be automatically enrolled into our program. To maximise learning opportunities, it is a recommendation that students entering the program are a minimum Level 2 of the Department of Education Instrumental Music Curriculum.

The music program may accept beginner applications on cello, double bass, oboe, bassoon, French horn, trombone and tuba only. These are limited and highly sought after positions which are allocated after an audition process at the discretion of the teacher. The needs of the ensemble are taken into consideration when accepting new students as the priority is to create a balanced ensemble sound.

Electric Guitar, Piano, Keyboard, Acoustic Guitar and Singing are not taught in the instrumental music curriculum. If your child is an advanced electric guitarist or pianist (and can read music) they will be considered for stage band, big band, or accompanying ensembles as required.

Students enrolled in the Instrumental Music Program are entitled to receive 1 lesson per week on their core instrument.

Tuition on a second instrument is subject to the following criteria:

- Students must be achieving an 'A' standard on their core instrument before applying for a second.
- Students must be level 6 or above of the IM Curriculum on their core instrument before applying for a second.
- Students must be adhering to attendance policies on their core instrument before applying for a second.
- Where students are learning a second instrument, they will still be required to commit to an ensemble on their core instrument.
- Students must provide their own instrument, unless it is a specific instrument we require in an ensemble and/or a school instrument is available.
- Lessons can only be provided if a vacancy exists and may take the place of their core instrument lesson to minimise mainstream class absence.
- Teachers will consider the suitability of the applicant for a particular instrument, including physical characteristics.
- Students may be invited by an instrumental music teacher to learn another instrument when the needs of a balanced ensemble are required, and if the student is demonstrating the necessary skills to transfer to another instrument.
- Students must demonstrate progress on the new instrument to remain on this agreement.
- The final decision of second instrument applications are at the discretion of the Head of Department after consideration of all points listed above.

Tuition

Students receive weekly 35 minute small-group instruction on woodwind, brass, string and percussion instruments. These lessons take place during normal school hours.

Tuition is available on the following instruments:

Woodwind

Piccolo, Flute, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Saxophone (Alto, Tenor and Baritone), Oboe and Bassoon.

Brass

Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Euphonium and Tuba.

Strings

Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass and Bass Guitar.

Percussion

Students receive tuition on all percussion instruments including drum kit, snare and bass drum, tuned percussion (xylophone etc and timpani) and auxiliary percussion.

Vocal

Students can participate in a choir program. No group lessons during school time are available for Vocalists. Students may also be asked to perform with a variety of ensembles as required by repertoire.

Expectations of Student Participation

- Commitment to the Instrumental Music program is for the whole year.
- **Weekly attendance at lessons and rehearsals with all equipment** (instrument, tutor book, ensemble music, pencil, instrument equipment). This is part of the school's Work Ready policy.
- **Attendance at ALL** performances, during and outside of school hours, including camps and tour.
- **Weekly practice** of ensemble music and lesson material as required by teachers and conductor.
- Observance of good rehearsal and performance **etiquette**.
- High level of behaviour and effort demonstrated in IM program and throughout all classes.
- If students are unable to attend a timetabled lesson, they **MUST** see or email their teacher before access lesson on that day. Re-scheduled lessons will only be permitted in the case of class exams/assessment or heavy workload for senior students, and only if there is a suitable alternative group to join. This will be at the discretion of the teacher.
- If a clash of commitments occurs, students are expected to act responsibly and discuss the clash with the directors of both activities. In most cases, a satisfactory compromise will be reached where the student will still be able to participate in both activities in a shared manner if the overall standard of the activity will not be compromised.

Required Resources

Students must bring the following to lessons and rehearsals

- Musical instrument
- Percussion students can purchase sticks and mallet equipment via Just Percussion.
 - New students <https://www.justpercussion.com.au/sandgate-district-shs-starter-pack>
 - Continuing students <https://www.justpercussion.com.au/Sandgate-District-SHS-continuing-pack>
- Instrument accessories including reeds, oils and strings
- Tuition book (method book as determined by the Instrumental Music teacher)
- Band music folder (provided upon entry into the program to students as part of their fees)
- Ensemble sheet music
- Solo repertoire
- Pencil for marking up sheet music

Timetables

Instrumental Music lessons are scheduled on a rotational basis to ensure students attend their lesson in a different period each week. Timetables are published in Q Block on the Music noticeboard opposite QG20 at the beginning of each term and copies are available for every student. Timetables are also emailed to parents on the email list. It is the student's responsibility to refer to the timetable and know when their lessons occur. If it is not possible for a student to attend their lesson, the teacher must be informed prior to the scheduled time (as detailed above)

Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting

The Queensland Instrumental Music curriculum is the framework upon which the Instrumental Music program is based. Results for Instrumental Music are included in the end of semester reports as per the Queensland Curriculum and Reporting Framework.

Instrumental Music QCAA Recognised Study

The department's instrumental music curriculum has been approved as a QCAA recognised study, allowing Year 11-12 students to obtain 1 QCE credit point when completing each of levels 7-10 of the curriculum. The conditions around these points require weekly contact time of an hour-long rehearsal and a 35 minute group lesson, comprising of 55 contact hours across 37 weeks & data recording to be retained for the purpose of state-wide moderation and random sampling processes.

Ensembles

Students wishing to be in a Stage Band or Percussion Ensemble must be in a core ensemble, or by permission of the Head of Department. The rehearsal schedule for these groups is expected to be at the following times:

Ensemble	Rehearsal Day	Rehearsal Time
SWE (Core)	Tuesday	3pm – 4pm
Concert Band (Core)	Friday	7.45am – 8.40am
String Ensemble (Core)	Thursday	3pm – 4pm
Senior Stage Band	Wednesday	7.45am – 8.40am
Junior Stage Band	Monday	3pm– 4 pm
Percussion Ensemble	Monday	7.45am – 8.40am
Choir (Core)	Wednesday	3pm – 4pm

Please note additional rehearsals may be scheduled prior to important events – prior notice will be given if this is the case.

Music and Folders

All students will be provided with a folder for their ensemble music. Any lost or damaged folders must be replaced by the student at a cost of \$25.00. **Put your name on your folder at the start of the year.** It is the responsibility of students to ensure they have their music organised for rehearsals and performances. Sheet music will be distributed by the ensemble conductor or teacher.

School Instruments

The school has a limited number of instruments available for loan to students. Generally, these are only available to beginners in their first year of instruction, or to those who play very expensive instruments (lower woodwind and brass). Percussionists are asked to purchase their own sticks, practice pads, and any other equipment as required by their teacher.

- An **External Request for Equipment (EDQUIP EQ11 form) must be completed for each instrument and the Instrument Hire fee must be paid, or a payment plan in place.**
- Insurance: When an instrument is loaned, parents/guardians are requested to ensure that it is insured on their own personal contents insurance, as it is not covered by the school insurance policy outside the school environment e.g. at home, on tour, camps, excursions or workshops outside school grounds.
- If a problem arises, **please do not try to repair the instrument yourself.** Please report all defects to your teacher as soon as possible so it can be repaired.

Personal Instruments

Parents are reminded to carefully consider the following points in relation to music instruments:

- Instruments can be stored in the Instrumental Music storerooms on lesson and ensemble days.
- Privately owned instruments are **not covered** by the school or the Department of Education. They are **always** the responsibility of the owner.
- It is recommended that parents take out their own property insurance to cover the student's own equipment when taken onto school premises and during school activities both on and off campus.

Fees

Instrumental tuition is free; however, students are asked to contribute towards music, text resources and other equipment. Families must **complete a Student Resource Scheme Participation Agreement Form** and return this to the school office to access educational resources for the Instrumental Music program. This contribution will be invoiced in Term 1. This Instrumental Music Resource Fee is **\$100 per student.**

Students making use of a school loan instrument are asked to pay a **\$120 instrument charge** to assist in covering costs of servicing and general maintenance.

Percussion students pay a **\$100 access fee** to use the range of percussion instruments at school. A periodic payment plan can be negotiated with the Business Services Manager. Please complete the appropriate form and return it together with your payment to the school's Payment Collection office.

All payments should be made directly to the school office on invoice. Fees can be paid also via BPoint or QParents.

Students with unpaid fees may not be able to attend events as part of the Instrumental Music program

Uniforms

Students in the Instrumental Music Program require a music shirt that is worn for most performances and excursions. Beginners will not need this Music shirt until they have been placed in an ensemble. Uniform specifications for all students are as follows:

Music Shirt These shirts are purchased from the school. Orders for the shirts will be taken in March and August. Order forms will be distributed at rehearsals and via email

Trousers Plain black formal trousers with belt or a full length black skirt. No jeans, no tights.

Shoes	Formal school uniform shoes
Socks	Plain black socks

For all performances, students with hair that is longer than shoulder length will be expected to have it up and out of their face. All students are expected to have a tidy appearance.

Student Music Committee

The Student Music Committee, consisting of the Year 12 Instrumental Music Program students, helps the Instrumental Music program in the day-to-day running of the program with such activities as organising and monitoring the music library, assisting in rehearsals, uniform monitoring, roll-marking and when needed with fundraising activities. A dynamic student music committee contributes greatly to the success of the program.

An ensemble leader and various Section Leaders may be selected for each ensemble. These students have certain roles and responsibilities to assist staff and direct students in tutorial and ensemble activities. These roles will be delegated by the conductors of each ensemble.

The Music Captain is an elected student position as per the Student Leadership Policy. Year 11 students are invited to nominate for this position in Term 3 of Year 11 for a Year 12 tenure.

Parent / Guardian Support

We value the support and help of our parent/guardians which contributes to the success of the instrumental music program. Support your child by encouraging them to practice, bringing them to rehearsals and performances, and by attending events.

From time to time we require parent/guardian support for music and fundraising events and we hope that we can call on your help when they occur. Information about those events, and the jobs that need to be done, will be circulated through letters home and emails. If you feel that you can help us at these times, please let us know.

Termination

Students who enrol in the Instrumental Music program are enrolled for the entirety of the school year. This is to ensure the continuity of the ensemble that each student participates in, as the ensemble sound can be altered by a change in participation.

A student may be removed from the program at the discretion of the parent/guardian by contacting the Head of Department directly. Following a discussion with the Head of Department the student must finalise loan hire arrangements and return all music to the conductor.

The Head of Department may also exclude a student from the program if they do not make steady progress either through lack of practice, aptitude or attendance at classes, rehearsals and performances.

Calendar of Events

A calendar of events will be published early in the school year. It will be given to students, emailed home and posted on the school website. Please consider these dates as advance warning of major events that we expect to take place during the year. We will advise you of any changes to the calendar as soon as we are made aware of them.

Students should check their pigeonholes regularly for notes and letters. Wherever possible, several weeks' notice will be given for each commitment. It is the responsibility of every student to check these communications and arrange their work, social and other activities around these commitments.

Weekly Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:45am to 8:40am	Percussion Ensemble		Senior Stage Band		Concert Band
9am to 11:15am	Mr Schick		Mr Van	Miss Moore	Mrs Schick
Morning Tea					
11:45am to 12:55pm	Mr Schick		Mr Van	Miss Moore	Mrs Schick
Lunch					
1:45pm to 2:55pm	Mr Schick	Mrs Schick	Mr Van	Miss Moore	Mrs Schick
3pm to 4pm	Junior Stage Band	SWE	Choir	String Orchestra	