

Sandgate District State High School



Music Excellence Program Handbook

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Music Excellence Program Overview

The Music Excellence is an extension program with a focus on performance. This program is for students in years 7 to 12 who demonstrate exceptional music talent, instrumental and/or vocal.

The program focusses on engaging students in performance through a variety of ensemble groups, solo and chamber performances in a wide range of musical styles that suit their music style. The program will be staffed by specialists in performance who have specific skills for their ensembles. Students will be extended through personalised learning experiences and develop musicianship through workshops and a varied performance program.

Students will also develop music theory, composition, improvisation, and performance skilled through weekly tutorials provided by school staff. Students will have the opportunity to interact with like-minded students across the school and work with senior mentors as they continue their music development.

Music is an integral part of everyday life serving self-expression, celebratory, social, cultural and educational roles. A study of music not only assists students in their own understanding and enjoyment of the arts, but it also helps them achieve excellent academic results in other subject areas through the promotion of healthy study and practice habits and creative thinking.

Course Outline

The Music Excellence program is available for students from Years 7-12, where students will:

- Develop music theory understanding and application, through study of the AMEB theory syllabus – ability to earn QCE points through accredited exams.
- Enhance their musicianship through practical performance-based learning
- Rehearse and practice music to develop technical skill and enhance their appreciation for different music styles
- Engage with professional artists in practical learning opportunities to engage with real world music making opportunities.
- Accelerate their music development towards Senior Music and Music Extension in Year 12

Music Staff

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Classroom Music Teachers

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Instrumental Music Teachers

Mr Mik Van Poelgeest

Brass Specialist (Wed)

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Woodwind Specialist (Tues PM, Fri)

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Ms Rebecca Moore

String Specialist (Thurs)

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Percussion Specialist (Mon)

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Enrolment Policy

All students who wish to enrol in the Music Excellence Program will need to complete an Application Form (with their enrolment pack for those entering in Year 7), attend an audition to perform repertoire that is representative of the level of performance ability and participate in an interview with music staff.

- Brass, woodwind, percussion, strings, guitar and piano applicants are required to prepare 2 contrasting pieces of music from a method book or as prepared for an exam (not concert band or orchestra pieces) and two scales at their level.
- Suggested for Percussionists: please prepare 1 tuned and 1 untuned piece of music. Your music teacher can help you prepare these.
- Vocal students are required to prepare two contrasting pieces of music with a backing track or instrumental accompaniment.

To be offered a position in the Music Excellence Program, the following selection criteria will be considered:

- Ability to read notated music (can be tab or chord charts)
- Demonstrate proficiency on a musical instrument or voice
- Compliance with school expectations regarding effort, behaviour and attendance
- Willingness and enthusiasm to continue development on a musical instrument throughout high school

Auditions will be held at Sandgate District SHS in the Performance Hall annually for Year 6 students. Auditions for year 7-12 students will be held on a needs basis

Expectations of Student Participation

- Selection of classroom music as an elective subject in Years 7-12.
- **Weekly attendance at lessons and rehearsals with all 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 Music Excellence Program and throughout all classes.
- If students are unable to attend a timetabled rehearsal, they **MUST** see or email their teacher before access lesson on that day.
- If a clash of commitments occurs, students are expected to attend the Music Excellence Program rehearsal
- Demonstrated improvement on instrument or voice throughout the year

Students who are unable to meet these expectations will be provided extra support to achieve these expectations. Students who consistently fail to meet the expectations of the Music Excellence Program will be removed from the program.

Course Structure

Students must participate in one of the following core ensembles

Concert Band or Symphonic Wind Ensemble	Brass, Woodwind or Percussion (IM)
Choir	Vocalist
String Ensemble	Strings or Percussion (IM)
Private Lessons	Guitar or Piano

These rehearsals run outside of regularly scheduled school time.

In addition, students in the Music Excellence program will need to participate in one other ensemble, these will change each year and be dependent on enrolments.

Stage Band (Junior or Senior)	Vocalist, Brass, Woodwind, Guitar, Piano or Percussion
Chamber Strings	Strings and Piano
Chamber Winds	Woodwind and Piano
Percussion Ensemble	Percussion and Piano and Guitar
Brass Ensemble	Brass
Jazz Ensemble	Vocalist, Brass, Woodwind, Guitar, Piano or Percussion
Rock Band	Vocalist, Guitars, Percussion
Chamber Ensembles	As required by ensembles

These rehearsals may run outside of regularly scheduled school time. A rehearsal schedule will be published early in the school year.

Each week, students will participate in a tutorial session, during the allocated sport lesson. Across each year students will focus on the following topics in these tutorials.

Music Theory, Musicianship and Reflective Practice
Composition and Improvisation
Small Ensemble and Solo Performances
Masterclasses with Industry Experts

Students in the Music Excellence Program are required to select classroom music as an elective subject in Years 7-12.

Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting

Students will be assessed on a folio of performances across each semester and on work completed in tutorials. Assessment tasks will be based on the Australian Curriculum – The Arts (Music), General Capabilities (Critical and Creative Thinking; Personal and Social Capability) in Year 7-10 and the QCAA Music Extension Syllabus for Year 11 and 12.

Students will also be given the opportunity to sit AMEB Theory Exams to achieve accreditation and QCE Points (from Grade 4 Theory).

Music Extension in Year 12 is a General – Extension subject and can contribute 2 QCE points.

Music and Folders

All students will be provided with a black folder for the year for their ensemble music. Any lost or damaged folder must be replaced by the student at a cost of \$15.00. 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.

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 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 storeroom on lesson and ensemble days.
- Privately owned instruments are **not covered** by the school or the Department of Education whilst at school, or when being transported to and from school. They are **at all times** the responsibility of the owner.
- It is recommended that you check with your household insurer to obtain a clear understanding of your position in relation to your particular circumstances.

Fees

Music Resource Scheme Fee – invoiced at start of year	\$60
Music Instrument Hire (if required)	\$60
Music Shirt – invoiced in March	\$40
Various excursions to see performances, visiting artist fees – invoiced throughout year	Various
AMEB Theory Exams – invoiced before sitting exam	\$30-40
Lost music folders (if required)	\$15

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 at a cost of \$40.00. Orders for the shirts will be taken in the first few weeks of the school year. Order forms will be distributed at rehearsals.
- Trousers** Plain black formal trousers. No hipsters, no jeans. Full length.
- Shoes** Black leather lace-up dress 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.

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