



LILYDALE

HIGH SCHOOL

Instrumental Music Program Subject Handbook

EXCELLENCE IN LEARNING, RESILIENCE IN LIFE, THRIVING IN COMMUNITY



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Introduction

The instrumental Music Program provides students with the opportunity to become musicians while fostering social interaction and teamwork through band and ensemble participation. Students experience the expressive qualities of music and develop creative thinking and problem-solving skills as they learn and perform. Participation in music can also reduce stress, build confidence, improve concentration, and enhance memory skills. The program nurtures self-expression, encouraging students to explore their creativity in a supportive environment. Above all, learning music is both fun and challenging, offering rewarding experiences that contribute to students' personal and academic growth.

Student Expectation

A position within the Instrumental Music Program requires commitment and active participation. Students are expected to use their own instrument, whether purchased or hired, and attend one weekly lesson. Any absences or requests for changes to lesson times should be communicated to the instrumental teacher and/or coordinator via Compass email. Regular practice is essential to support musical development. Students are also required to participate in at least one school band or ensemble, which includes attending weekly rehearsals, performances, and concerts. Respect for all equipment and spaces within the Performing Arts Centre is expected at all times, and students must abide by the school code of conduct.

Tuition Schemes

The Instrumental Music Program offers both Department and Private Tuition options.

Department Tuition, available to students in Years 8–12 and subject to an annual tuition fee, includes brass instruments (trumpet, trombone, French horn and tuba), woodwind instruments (clarinet, saxophone, flute and oboe), and percussion (both tuned and untuned percussion, including drum kit).

Private Tuition is available for voice and guitar (bass, acoustic and electric). Weekly private tuition fees comply with Victorian Music Teachers' Association rates and are paid directly to the instrumental teacher. These lessons are arranged privately between the student, parent or guardian, and the instrumental teacher.

Students enrolled in the program will receive one lesson per week on a rotating timetable throughout the term, on their designated lesson day.



Band and Ensemble Program

Participation in a band or ensemble is an expected component of the Instrumental Music Program and forms an important part of each student's musical development. Students who learn an instrument externally are also encouraged to join the school's music ensembles. Throughout the year, students have regular opportunities to perform at school concerts and events as members of one or more groups, including the LHS Concert Band, Rookie Band, Funk Band (by invitation), Woodwind, Brass and Percussion Ensembles, Junior and Senior Guitar Ensembles, and Vocal Ensembles/Choir. These performance experiences help students develop their musicianship, confidence, and teamwork skills. Leadership opportunities are also available, with Captain roles awarded to students who demonstrate outstanding commitment, leadership, musicianship, and enthusiasm for music at Lilydale High School.

Instrument Hire or Purchase

All students participating in the Instrumental Music Program must have access to an instrument. With the exception of percussion and piano students, instruments will need to be transported to and from school each week on lesson and band or ensemble days. Families considering the purchase of an instrument are encouraged to consult the relevant Instrumental Music Teacher for advice regarding sizing, quality, pricing, and reputable retailers. While inexpensive instruments may be available online, they often have poor sound quality, can be more difficult to play, require more frequent repairs, and generally have a lower resale value.

For students who are unable to purchase their own instrument, the school offers a limited number of woodwind and brass instruments for hire at a cost of \$150 per year. Beginning students are encouraged to take advantage of this hire scheme during their first year of learning before purchasing their own instrument at the end of the loan period.

The care and maintenance of school-hired instruments is the responsibility of the student and their family. Instruments should be stored safely at home in a secure location, away from direct sunlight and excessive heat, such as near windows or inside vehicles. If a hired instrument is damaged beyond normal wear and tear, families will be invoiced for the cost of repair or replacement. To help minimise accidental damage at school, instruments must be stored in the Instrumental Music storeroom adjacent to the staffroom in the Performing Arts Centre (PAC). Instruments should be checked in before Home Group and collected at the end of the school day.



Band Uniform

Students representing the school at concerts and external performances are required to wear the official performance uniform. This consists of a plain black button-up collared shirt (short- or long-sleeved) without logos, black pants (excluding tracksuit pants) or a black skirt, black socks or stockings, and black shoes. Students performing as soloists or in smaller ensembles may be permitted to wear neat casual clothing, as advised by their Instrumental Music Teacher.

Performances

Throughout the year, Instrumental Music students are encouraged to extend and showcase their musical abilities through a variety of performances for the school community. Held in venues such as the PAC Theatre, stadium, Junior School, and PAC deck, these events provide valuable opportunities for students to perform in front of families, peers, and staff while celebrating the musical talent within Lilydale High School. Performance opportunities throughout the year include assemblies and award ceremonies, the Grade 6 Information Night and Orientation Day, Mid-year Melodies, Amplified, September Soiree, Lilydale High's Got Talent, LHS 'The Voice', Battle of the Bands, and ENCORE!

External Musical Opportunities

Instrumental Music students are provided with a wide range of opportunities to perform and develop their musical skills beyond the school environment. These opportunities include participation in community festivals, competitions, inter-school workshops, and the North-Eastern Regional concert series. Students may also choose to undertake Australian Music Examinations Board (AMEB) examinations to further their musical development and gain formal recognition of their achievements.

Individual students and small ensembles may be selected to participate in specialist music workshops conducted by Melbourne and Monash Universities, as well as Department of Education performance events such as the Victorian State School Spectacular. In addition, regular excursions to events such as the Melbourne Arts Centre Megamix Program and Melbourne Symphony Orchestra performances are designed to enrich students' musical experiences, broaden their appreciation of the performing arts, and form an important part of the Instrumental Music Program.



Assessment and Reporting

Instrumental Music students receive an academic report from their teacher at the end of both Semester One and Semester Two. These reports provide constructive feedback on student progress and offer suggestions for further development. Assessment is based on a range of areas, including reading and rhythmic skills, technique, musicality, evidence of practice, and overall effort.

Throughout the year, Instrumental Music teachers may recommend that students undertake examinations through the Australian Music Examinations Board (AMEB). Affiliated with the University of Melbourne, AMEB offers internationally recognised syllabuses and qualifications for musicians of all ages and abilities. Working alongside their Instrumental Music Teacher, students are encouraged to set goals, select an appropriate examination format, prepare thoroughly, and complete their examination. Following the exam, students receive detailed feedback to support their ongoing musical growth. AMEB examinations provide a structured pathway for learning, helping students develop their skills, build confidence, and gain a respected qualification while fostering a lifelong enjoyment of music.

Awards

In addition to academic reports, Instrumental Music students may be nominated for Excellence or Endeavour Awards in recognition of their achievements, dedication, and progress throughout each semester. These awards celebrate students who demonstrate outstanding musical achievement, commitment, perseverance, and positive engagement within the program. At the conclusion of each year, one Instrumental Music student from each year level is presented with a trophy acknowledging their exceptional contribution and commitment to the Instrumental Music Program. Year 12 graduates also receive special recognition for their sustained involvement and dedication to music throughout their time at Lilydale High School, celebrating their participation in the program from Year 7 through to graduation.