



Instrumental Music Policy

Rationale

Yarra Hills Secondary College provides a comprehensive Instrumental Music Program in which students learn to play a concert band instrument. The program provides an extra dimension to our classroom music program ensuring that educational outcomes are maximised for all students, and caters to the learning needs of students from different cultural backgrounds and all levels of ability. It provides the opportunity for musical development of students through instrumental instruction on an individual or group basis, and students are expected to participate in a college concert band, where students develop their performance skills as an integral part of their music education.

Instrumental Music Guidelines

Yarra Hills Secondary College has an exciting Music Program and offers Instrumental Music lessons to students in Year 7 to 12 as follows:

- A music tuition fee is charged for each student enrolled in the Instrumental Music Program. Failure to pay the Instrumental Music Fee by the due date may restrict your child's access to the program and refunds are only available on exceptional grounds, and at the discretion of the Instrumental Music Director. Fees differ from year to year and are currently as follows:
Year 7 - \$100, Year 8 - \$200, Year 9 & 10 - \$220, Year 11 & 12 - \$240 [subject to change]
- Students who have instrumental music lessons are required to take part in one of the College Concert Bands.
- Musical instruments are available for hire from the College for \$60 per term, for the first year of tuition, and in future years by negotiation. Where possible, parents are encouraged to purchase a musical instrument for their child, from a recommended music retailer.

How to enlist in the instrumental music program

In year 7, students have the opportunity to trial all of the musical instruments that the College offers for tuition. Students who wish to participate in the instrumental music program are required to attend the Music Expo with their parents in February, where further information regarding instrumental music lessons, fees and the College Band Program will be distributed.

Instruments Offered for Tuition

Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, Drums/Percussion, Bass Guitar, Guitar, Piano and Singing [from year 9 to 12 only]. Priority is given to concert band instruments for students in Year 7, with every effort made to achieve a balanced ensemble.

Music Lessons

All instrumental music lessons operate on a rotating timetable, where students are withdrawn from timetabled classes, for one half-period per week. This ensures minimum disruption to student's regular classes. It is generally not possible to organise lessons at lunchtimes or before school for students, as this is usually when ensembles will be rehearsing.

Students in Years 11 or 12 often have study periods, and where possible, teachers try to schedule students to have their lessons during these study periods, although this is not always possible.

Band Rehearsals

Band rehearsals are held after school each week as follows: [subject to change each year]

Senior Concert Band: Tuesday 3:30 – 4:30pm at the Mooroolbark Campus

Junior Concert Band: Wednesday 3:30 - 4:30pm at the Mooroolbark Campus

Intermediate Concert Band: Thursday 3:30 - 4:30pm at the Mooroolbark Campus

A College mini bus will transport students from the Mount Evelyn Campus to the after-school rehearsals at Mooroolbark.

Parents/guardians are required to arrange transport home from the Mooroolbark Campus AFTER rehearsal.

Further Opportunities

Students who exhibit commitment and musical talent may have the opportunity to join an ensemble in addition to their involvement in a College Concert Band. Students who earn their place in the Senior Concert Band may also have the opportunity to perform internationally through international camps.

Reports

All students in the Instrumental Music Program will be given a comprehensive report on their progress in instrumental lessons during the semester, just as in any other subject.

Conditions of Participation:

- Each instrumental music student must undertake a regular and consistent practice schedule to take full benefit of the tuition offered. The Music Staff ask for full parental/guardian support of the practice schedule as recommended by the Instrumental Music Teacher.
- Instrumental Music lessons will usually be given in small groups however, as students progress, groups may become smaller, and in fact lessons may be offered on an individual basis.
- Students are expected to monitor their own instrumental timetable and attend lessons on time to gain maximum instructional time with their tutor
- Students attend one lesson per week during class time, the student being withdrawn from class at a set time, which rotates through the school day, so that the same subject is not missed each week.
- It is the responsibility of student to inform their class teacher prior to their instrumental lesson of their absence. Students are also expected to catch up on work missed before their next scheduled class.
- Every student learning to play an instrument is required to be a member of the appropriate College Concert Band, attend weekly rehearsals and participate in performances during the year.
- Students playing in one of the College Bands are required to stay in the program for the full year.
- All students will be given a report at the end of each semester, as with all other school subjects.
- Students in Year 7 will be expected to purchase their own music stand for individual practice.
- Students in all year levels will be expected to purchase accessories such as reeds, valve oil, slide cream etc and music as necessary.

Parent Group – ‘BRAVO’ Friends of Music

All parents of music students are welcome to join ‘BRAVO’ Friends of Music. This is a dedicated group of parents/guardians assisting with concerts, as well as fundraising for band uniforms, music, musical instruments and music camps as appropriate. Meetings are held at the Mooroolbark Campus on a Tuesday evening from 6pm – 7pm once per month.