



CRESTM EAD
· STATE SCHOOL ·

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Parent Information Booklet



WELCOME

Dear Parents

Congratulations! Your child has the opportunity to participate in the Crestmead State School Instrumental Program.

To be considered for this program, children need to demonstrate musical aptitude together with evidence of reliability, enthusiasm, punctuality and responsibility with set tasks, both inside and outside of the classroom.

Your support as parents has obviously been a major contributor to the development in your child of these qualities. A continuation of this support together with understanding, encouragement and supervision will be essential if your child is to participate in and gain maximum advantage from what is a wonderful opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument.

Mr Tim Farrell
Principal

There will be **Highs** and **Lows** and persistence will be important. Most of the time everything will be going beautifully, but there will be little obstacles or difficulties along the way which will need to be faced and overcome. This is no different to any other goal which is worth striving for.

It is during these times that we particularly need your support.

Please contact me immediately to see how we can help. Usually, the Instrumental Teacher and I will have a chat with the student, work through the problem together and arrive at a possible solution.

This is a wonderful opportunity for your child to develop further culturally as well as academically and will open doors both at High School and through later life.

Remember we are always here to discuss any concern or inquiry you may have.

Mrs Pia Kanoyangwa
Music Co-ordinator

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM HANDBOOK

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INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC HANDBOOK

SECTION ONE

1. **Commencement**

All Year 2 and Year 3 students are tested by the Classroom Music Teacher for possible inclusion in the School Instrumental Program for the following year.

Student selection is based on the following criteria:

1. Participation in classroom music.
2. Demonstrated commitment and positive attitude to school work.
3. Grade Level in Music.

The following personnel are involved in the selection process:

- Classroom Music Teacher
- Class Teacher
- Administration
- Instrumental Teacher

2. **Band and String Ensemble**

All students must perform with a string ensemble or band. Our programs are ensemble based, therefore it is a requirement that anyone participating in instrumental lessons *must attend band/ensemble rehearsals*. These rehearsals are usually held at 7.45am, so you will be committing to having your child at school by 7.45am on rehearsal day. Non-attendance at instrumental rehearsals will jeopardise their position in the program. If a rehearsal is missed for any reason, a letter or email from the parent is required.

Our ensembles and bands are as follows:

Band:

Beginner Band
Concert Band

Strings:

Beginner Bow Benders
Intermezzo Ensemble
Senior Scherzo Strings

3. **Fees**

If your child uses a school instrument, a \$50.00 levy per year applies. This money allows for servicing of the instrument at the end of each year. Every student enrolled (using their own instrument) pays an annual levy of \$25.00. This covers our national copyright licence (with A.M.C.O.S. in Sydney) and helps in the purchase of new music. The levy will be required with the enrolment form at the beginning of the year.

SECTION TWO

1. *When are the lessons and how long?*

One thirty-minute group Instrumental lesson will be given each week in school time.

2. *Where will I find my lesson and rehearsal times?*

Instrumental Teachers will prepare a timetable showing which group your child will be in for both their lesson and ensemble/band rehearsals.

TIMES WILL BE POSTED IN THE MUSIC ROOM WINDOW

Class teachers will be notified of the lesson timetable, but it is your child's responsibility to remember. Non-attendance at instrumental lessons will jeopardise their position in the program. If a lesson is missed for any reason, a letter from their parent/ guardian is required.

3. *Where do I leave my instrument at school on lesson day?*

During school hours, students should leave their instruments in their normal classroom. **Instruments are not to be left at school during the week. It should be taken home for daily practice.**

4. *Am I responsible for my instrument at school?*

Although the music department takes all due care of instruments, the school **cannot be held responsible for the loss or damage of your own instruments.** Your instrument is your responsibility, and therefore you are the only person permitted to touch, play or handle it. If the instrument is damaged, please bring the instrument to the instructor. Under no circumstances should there be an attempt to repair the instrument as this often results in even more damage.

5. *Practice*

How long is enough practice?

1 st 6 months	15 minutes/3 x week
2 nd 6 months	20minutes/3 x week
2 nd year	20-30 minutes/3 x week
3 rd year and above	30 minutes/3 x week



SECTION THREE

3.1. *Accessories*

Students are expected to purchase the necessary accessories for their instrument and keep spares as necessary

Saxophone and Clarinet	3 x size 2 Reeds (to start, more will be required as they break), Cork Grease, Cleaning swab and soft cloth
Trumpet	Bottle of Valve Oil and soft cloth
Trombone	Bottle of slide oil and soft cloth
Flute	Clean cloth e.g. handkerchief
Percussion	Drumsticks and practice drum pad
Violin	Violin rosin
Cello	Cello rosin, rock stop
Double Bass	Double Bass rosin, rock stop
Extra items required by all students	Black display folder, music stand for use at home, pencil and 2 pegs to fix music to the music stand at school

3.2 *Tutor Books*

The tutor book will be used at school and home for practice. If your child plays Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium or Percussion, you will require the **Sound Innovations** book. If your child is in the Strings Program, their instructor will notify you of what tutor book is required.



SECTION FOUR

1. *Do I purchase a new instrument?*

Education Queensland can provide a limited number of instruments for the first 12 months for an annual fee of \$50.00.

Instruments required to be purchased after 1 year:

Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, and Violin

Instruments to be purchased after 3 years:

Saxophones, and Trombone

Instruments available for hire throughout primary:

French Horn, Tuba, Bass Clarinet, Baritone, Cello and Double Bass



It is the student's or parent's responsibility to ensure that an instrument is purchased within this timeline.

When purchasing an instrument, it is recommended that the instructors be consulted. It is better to buy quality instruments as they will have a better sound, better re-sale and there will be less repairs. Always ask for the student price. Avoid brands such as Hark, Dolphin, Encore, Lisner, Riviera, Cheap Jupiter and Heritage as they are generally poor quality. Generally, instruments made in the USA, Japan, Europe and England are of better quality. Second hand instruments can be bought through ebay and gumtree. Check for cracks, loose sections, the seal on the keys and that the cork is firm. Ask if it can be checked by an expert. Another option for obtaining an instrument is to hire. The Music Spot Browns Plains has a scheme for hiring.

2. *Expectation of Students*

Students should demonstrate a commitment to all aspects of this program. Students are expected to be involved in weekly lessons, rehearsals, performances and extra curricula activities as they arise. The two main areas of responsibility include Instrumental Lessons and Ensemble/Band. These expectations include:

Instrumental Lessons

Students who participate in the instrumental program must fulfil the following:

- a) Punctual attendance at all lessons with the required equipment
- b) Regular individual home practice as determined by instrumental teacher
- c) Demonstrate co-operation, courtesy, common sense and consideration towards fellow students and Instrumental Teachers
- d) Demonstrate a willingness to learn and progress

Ensemble/Band

Students who participate in the instrumental program must fulfil the following:

- a) Punctual attendance at all rehearsals with required equipment
- b) Assistance with setting up and packing up ensemble equipment



- c) Demonstrate stage and rehearsal etiquette at all times
- d) Display enthusiasm for achieving excellence in performance
- e) Fulfil any practice requirements pertaining to the ensemble/band
- f) Demonstrate a full commitment to all ensemble activities including those outside of normal school hours

NOTE: Ensemble Director and/or Instrumental Teacher, not the student will determine what instruments are played.

Additional Expectations

Students who participate in the Instrumental Program must fulfil the following:

- a) The Instrumental Teacher should be notified of any difficulties that may arise in fulfilling the expectations in relation to lessons and/or ensemble
- b) The Instrumental Teacher should be notified (by a written note from parent/guardian) of any absence from a music lesson, rehearsal or performance
- c) Students wishing to withdraw from the program will be required to bring a letter of permission from parents. This should only happen after the parent has discussed the situation with the Instrumental Teacher

3. *Expectations of Parents/Guardians*

Without parental support, the Instrumental Music Program would not operate effectively. Parents/guardians are encouraged to:

- a) Support your child in their home practice, through the provision of a time and place that will cause minimum disruption to the rest of the home
- b) Demonstrate an interest in the achievements made by your child even though they may seem small
- c) Support your child and the program by attending concerts and functions
- d) Ensure your child fulfils the expectations set out for students
- e) Advise the Instrumental Teacher of your child's absence from a lesson or performance by email or note from their parent/guardian
- f) Advise the Instrumental Teacher of any problems with the program, teachers, other students or difficulties affecting your child's progress

Failure to meet expectations

Failure to uphold the expectations and responsibilities outlined can result in one or more of the following penalties:

1. Suspension of lessons
2. Intervention of Principal
3. Loss of school instrument
4. Exclusion or suspension from ensemble/band
5. Exclusion or suspension from the program



SECTION FIVE

Quick Answers to your Questions

1. **What if I need to miss an ensemble/band rehearsal?**

Try to notify the Ensemble Director before the rehearsal via email or with a note from your parent/ guardian. If this is not possible, a note must be brought the next day. Three missed rehearsals in one semester without a valid excuse see "failure of expectations".

2. **Do I have to attend all ensemble performances?**

Yes. Failure to attend any performance without excuse (extreme illness, religious observance, reasonable notice of conflicting commitment) will result in exclusion from the program.

3. **What if I need to attend an important class lesson?**

If an important class lesson clashes with your instrumental lesson for that particular week, you should speak to the Instrumental Teacher about attending the class lesson. A record of missing instrumental lessons without valid excuse will lead to consequences within "failure of expectations".

4. **What if I forget my instrument?**

Forgetting an instrument is not an acceptable excuse for not attending a lesson or rehearsal. All attempts should be made by you to obtain your instrument. If you are unable to do so, you should still attend your lesson or rehearsal without your instrument.

5. **What if I am not coping**

The moment you have difficulties within the program, you should speak to your Instrumental Teacher. All attempts will be made to assist you in balancing your commitment to music with any other commitment.

6. **What if I have to leave a rehearsal early?**

As the Ensemble Director is legally responsible for you until the conclusion of the rehearsal, permission to leave early will only be granted if a note (dated and signed by a parent or guardian) is given to the Ensemble Director before the commencement of the rehearsal.

7. **What if I lose my Music Folder?**

If you think you have lost your music folder, it is most important that you inform the Ensemble Director straight away. Many times, music folders are not lost, but misplaced. Notify your teacher as soon as possible.

8. **What if I damage my school instrument?**

Damage to school instruments must be reported to your Instrumental Teacher as soon as the damage occurs. If the damage is accidental, then the school **may** pay for the repairs. If the damage occurs as a result of your negligence, you **will** be asked to pay for the cost of repairs or replacing the instrument. **Take care of the instrument as though it is your own.**

9. **What if I can't afford to buy an item required?**

If you have difficulties in purchasing an item required by the program, see your Instrumental Teacher, as arrangements to help you may be possible.

SECTION SIX

Performance Expectations

All students are expected to attend and participate in performances with their ensembles and bands. The aim of each performance is to provide students with opportunities to perform for audiences with their musical group while developing their performance skills, and confidence.

Performance Uniform (Intermezzo Ensemble, Senior Scherzo Strings, Concert Band)

- Crestmead State School Music Performance Shirt – *to be borrowed from the music department*
- Long black pants
- Black socks
- Black enclosed shoes
- Hair to be neatly styled.
- Royal blue, black and white hair small / medium accessories are acceptable.

Performance Calendar

All our band and ensemble groups perform at least twice in front of audiences during the year at concerts held at the Gavin Bird Community Hall.

Term 1-

Year 2 String Immersion Concert 1

Term 2-

Year 2 String Immersion Concert 2

Crestmead Music Celebration Concert (Semester 1)

Academic Assemblies (Junior & Senior)

Term 3-

Year 2 String Immersion Concert 3

Term 4-

Year 2 String Immersion (Phase 2) Concert

Crestmead Music Celebration Concert (Semester 2)

Senior Showcase & Music Awards Ceremony

Academic Assemblies (Junior & Senior)

Beenleigh Eisteddfod

In addition to our school-based concerts, our Concert Band and Senior Strings musicians perform annually in the Beenleigh Eisteddfod.