WHS Instrumental Music Program

The study of music fosters intellectual, physical and emotional development. In addition to teaching students to play their instruments, playing music develops teamwork, commitment and study skills, and bestows upon students a unique musical experience from which they will benefit for the rest of their lives.

‘Music nurtures the soul…’

Williamstown High School provides an excellent Instrumental Music Program developed through years of experience and hard work. The program provides a valuable co-curricular experience for many students across both campuses.

MUSIC LESSONS:
Music students attend weekly lessons with our qualified and talented music staff. Lessons are in small groups of up to four students. These lessons are held during class time; times are alternated weekly to ensure students are not repeatedly missing the same class. Regular home practice is expected to ensure maximum skill development.

BANDS AND ENSEMBLES:
To further develop their skills, students are required to participate in a concert band or ensemble that suits their level of learning. Held before or after school once a week, these rehearsals are an essential component of the program, as they provide students with group performance opportunities. As well as concert bands, students have the opportunity to be involved in other ensembles such as stage band and instrument specific groups.

PERFORMANCES:
Our students enjoy regular performances both with the concert bands and in smaller ensembles. Musical items are often required for school assemblies, open days, local community events and special activities. The highlights of the year include the annual Spring Concert at the Williamstown Town Hall and Spring Soiree in the Bayview Atrium; both evenings enjoyed very much by parents, students and the local community. Other performance activities include Performance Day tours to local primary schools, local festivals and the Westside Arts Concert at the Melbourne Concert Hall.

MUSIC CAMPS AND TOURS:
The school provides an annual music camp or performance tour for Intermediate and Senior Concert Bands and the Stage Band. Past camps have included performances at Parliament House (Canberra), New Zealand and Tasmania. In 2014 the Senior Concert Band will tour the Snowy Mountain region.

RECORDINGS:
CD and MP3 recordings are also produced to showcase our students’ achievements. The most recent recording project was the Senior Stage Band’s second album, recorded in the school’s own recording studio.

REHEARSALS:
Most concert band and stage band rehearsals are after school on different days of the week for about an hour, whilst some are held before school from 8.00am. Details for each band are announced at the start of each year.
If students choose to join the Instrumental Music Program at Williamstown High School they will have the experience of playing in one of our concert bands and/or stage bands:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Band/Ensemble</th>
<th>Main year level (with flexibility)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Junior Band</td>
<td>Year 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate Concert Band</td>
<td>Year 8 (and Yr 7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Concert Band</td>
<td>Year 9-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Stage Band</td>
<td>Year 10-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bayview Stage Band</td>
<td>Year 7-9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OTHER ENSEMBLES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concert Band instruments</th>
<th>Optional ensembles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flute</td>
<td>Flute Ensemble/ Woodwind Ensemble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarinet</td>
<td>Clarinet Trio/Woodwind Ensemble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alto &amp; tenor saxophones</td>
<td>Saxophone Quartet/Stage Bands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trumpet</td>
<td>Stage Bands, Brass Ensemble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French Horn</td>
<td>Brass Ensemble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trombone</td>
<td>Stage Band, Brass Ensemble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euphonium</td>
<td>Stage Band, Brass Ensemble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>String bass (bass guitar)</td>
<td>Stage Band, Brass Stage Band, Bass Ensemble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percussion/glockenspiel</td>
<td>Stage Band, Percussion Ensemble</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FEES:
The instrumental music program is run on a non-profit basis and relies on the subscription of its participants. The fees are very reasonable when compared to private tuition and ours include school ensemble activities. Our instrument hire fees are also very reasonable in comparison to external suppliers: $235/year for saxophones, $185 for all other instruments. The current music subscription fee is $385/year. There is a reduced subscription of $235 for students who are involved in ensembles but who have private lessons out of school. Fees are subject to change, as determined by school council finance committee.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
Piano, stringed instruments and voice:
Please refer to the separate information and forms for these instruments.

Electric guitar, (rock) drums, keyboard:
These can be experienced in the classroom music program (including the ROCKS Challenge Units), but not in small group lessons.

Accelerated program:
Many new Year 7 students who are in the accelerated program also learn an instrument. These students often find that participating in the Music Program complements their other academic endeavors.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WHS INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM:

All new WHS students have the opportunity to participate in the instrumental music program. If you would like your child to be part of the Instrumental Music Program, please complete this form and return to the main office. When students are allocated an instrument they will be issued with a letter of confirmation. Invoices are then posted to parents. If you have any queries about the program, please contact the Director of Music at the Bayview campus before submitting this form.

CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION:
Music fees apply to all participants in the music program. The Williamstown High School music program incurs costs that are only partially subsidised by parents/guardians.

1. From receipt of this form, you will be charged a one year subscription fee.

2. If a student wishes to withdraw from the program, they must first submit a letter signed by parents. **Please be aware that upon receipt of this agreement you will still be charged for one semester if your child decides to withdraw from the program.** For example; a student who withdraws after three weeks or ten weeks will be charged the same amount. The maximum refund will be for one semester only.

3. Details of the music subscription fee and instrument hire fees are listed on the **Instrument Application** form. Fees must be paid 30 days from the date on the invoice.

4. School Council requires that if music fees are not paid by the due date (that is, within 30 days from an invoice date), the student can be asked to withdraw from the music program.

5. Payment of the music subscription fee entitles students to participation in the music program, which includes having lessons and participating in a weekly ensemble rehearsal. While every effort is made by music staff to avoid conflicts with other subjects, there will inevitably be instances where the student is unable to attend lessons through no fault of their own (e.g. sport or excursion day). **Subscription to the music program does not guarantee that the student will receive a lesson every week of the year.**

6. Once parents have agreed to their child's participation in the WHS music program, their child may commence lessons. If payment has not been received within 30 days we reserve the right to discontinue lessons.

7. If an agreement commences at any stage during terms 2 or 4, pro-rata fees will apply. There are no pro-rata rates for less than one full school semester. **If you have any concerns with payment or would like to work out a payment plan, please contact the business manager.**

8. For students that have been in the program for a few years, parents/guardians will be encouraged to **purchase** an instrument for their child once interest is established.

9. In the case of loss or damage of a school instrument due to negligence or misuse (i.e. circumstances not covered by DEECD) the cost of replacement or repair will be the responsibility of parents.

**NB. Classroom teachers understand that students must attend instrumental music lessons and band performances on occasion, as scheduled during class time. Students must take note of class work missed in subjects due to a lesson and be sure to catch up as needed. Class teachers are advised of performances one week in advance.**
WHAT WE REQUIRE OF INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC STUDENTS:

- Students learning an instrument are expected to attend lessons each week (on a rotational basis: ensuring that the same class is not missed very often) and attend band practice each week. If they cannot attend band practice a letter must be supplied by parents. If students do not attend band for two weeks without a signed letter from home, the Music Department reserves the right to put lessons on hold.

- Students must take responsibility for attendance and for checking lesson times.

- Storage: Students must follow the rules about storage of their instrument at school. Students with large instruments will be given a music locker near the music rooms for security.

- All reasonable care of instruments must be taken by the student against damage, loss or theft. In the event of any such occurrence, the Director of Music must be notified immediately.

- On no account must the student, or any other unauthorised person, attempt repairs or adjustments to the instrument. Any damage or defects in the instrument must be brought to the attention of the student's instrumental teacher.

- Please ensure that your child establishes and maintains their daily practice routine.

- School instruments are not to be taken out of Australia.

- Students must understand and accept that responsibility of participating in our groups extends to rehearsal/performance setting and packing up.

- All music students have the opportunity to attend a music camp and/or performance tours. Generally, this is offered from their 2nd year of participation and attendance is expected.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY CHILD DECIDES HE/SHE DOESN’T WANT TO CONTINUE?

If a student has been learning for some time and wishes to withdraw from the music program, they must fully discuss it with parents and the music staff. If the decision is to discontinue, parents need to confirm this in writing and forward to the Director of Music. Students will then be charged for that semester only.

Please note: If a student wishes to discontinue lessons partway throughout a term they will still be charged for one semester. We encourage students to learn for at least one year to gain a realistic picture of their capabilities/interest level.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT:

We rely on parental involvement in the instrumental music program, as the rigor of our program goes beyond the time available to music staff, particularly around concert times. If you are able to assist in different ways and are interested in assisting/joining the Music Committee please provide your email address below.

Email:____________________________________

Instrumental Music Application form
Student name: …………………………………….
Home Group: ………(school to complete)
Home Phone Number: ……………………..
Email (parent)……………………………………

Upon receipt of this form you will be invoiced accordingly. Please note that payment is not required until you receive an invoice.

As there are limited positions available in the Instrumental Music Program, we encourage you to return forms by the end of week 1, term 1. Students will be issued with an instrument and lessons will commence during the first few weeks of term 1.

Please note that it is a requirement of participation that students attend a concert band rehearsal. This not only ensures exposure to other musicians but maximum development of musicianship.

Instrument Application:
Below is a list of instruments that students can learn. These instruments are available for students to hire. Alternatively, you may wish to purchase your own instrument, or you may already own one - usually it is preferable if parents can discuss this with the instrumental teacher to assure the most suitable choice.

1. Place a No.1 in the box of the instrument you would like to learn. If you do not receive your first preference but would accept a second preference please indicate with a No. 2. Only number this box if you prepared to learn the instruments you choose:

   - Flute
   - Trombone
   - Clarinet
   - Euphonium
   - Alto Saxophone
   - French Horn
   - Tenor Saxophone
   - Percussion (drum-kit AND glockenspiel)
   - Trumpet
   - String Bass (bass guitar for concert band)

Due to limited space in the program, students may not have the option of learning their first preference instrument. Please note that instruments such as the bass guitar and percussion in particular have limited positions available.

2. To give us some background information please answer the following:
   a) What instrument(s), if any, have you learnt before? ...........................................
      ……………………………………………………………………………………………...
   b) How long have you played those instruments? .................................................
      ……………………………………………………………………………………………...
   c) Do you own your own instrument? If so, what is it? ........................................
      ……………………………………………………………………………………………...

3. I/we agree to pay the following fees once I/we receive an invoice:
Please tick the two boxes that will apply to your choice. Both a) and b) must be completed in order for application to be processed.

a)
☐ $385 Music Subscription Fee (lessons and band)

OR

☐ $235 Reduced Subscription Fee. My child currently takes instrumental lessons privately but would like to participate in the Instrumental Band Program.

b)
☐ $235 per year for saxophone hire

OR

☐ $185 per year for hire of all other instruments

Please read the Conditions of Agreement form attached and sign below if you have read and agree to the terms stated. This form must be signed by a parent/legal guardian.

Student name…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Parent name…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Signature………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Date……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Please detach and return this form by the end of week 1, term 1 by post, email or fax (93976899) to the Director of Music at Williamstown High School, Bayview St. Williamstown.

Further information
If you have any queries please contact either of our two Music Directors:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bayview Campus</th>
<th>Jamila Brogan</th>
<th><a href="mailto:brogan.jamila.r@edumail.vic.gov.au">brogan.jamila.r@edumail.vic.gov.au</a></th>
<th>93999228</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pasco Campus</td>
<td>James Rust</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rust.james.j@edumail.vic.gov.au">rust.james.j@edumail.vic.gov.au</a></td>
<td>93971899</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tracey Fogarty       Gino Catalano
Business Manager       Principal
93971899              93971899