



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 students with an Instrumental Music Program that has been developed over many years. The program enables students to develop skills and expertise across a range of fields, providing a valuable co-curricular experience across both campuses.

MUSIC LESSONS:

Music students attend weekly lessons with our qualified and talented music staff. Lesson sizes range from one 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 skills, we offer ensemble rehearsals. Students who are learning privately may also wish to take part in one of our ensembles. All students undertaking instrumental music lessons are required to participate in a concert band or ensemble that suits their level of learning. Held weekly before or after school, these rehearsals are an essential and compulsory component of the program.

Students will participate in one or more of the following ensembles:

Wind Instruments: Junior, Intermediate or Senior Concert Band. Stage Band by audition.

Guitarists: Guitar Ensemble.

Vocalists: Vocal Ensemble.

PERFORMANCES:

Our students participate in regular performances. Musical items are often required for school assemblies, open days, local community events and special activities. Highlights include the annual Spring Concert and Spring Soiree - both evenings enjoyed very much by parents, students and the local community. Other performance activities may include music camps and tours, visits to local primary schools, local festival performances, and collaboration with Orchestra Victoria and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

MUSIC CAMPS AND TOURS:

WHS students have participated in music camps or tours every year since the program was developed. Music camps take place in regional Victoria and students have toured around central Victoria, Canberra, Tasmania, South Australia and New Zealand.

INSTRUMENTS OFFERED:

Instruments: flute, clarinet, trumpet, French horn, baritone horn, trombone, bass guitar, saxophone, percussion (includes drum-kit), baritone horn.

Vocal and Guitar lessons: These instruments are not currently subsidized by the DEECD, which is reflected in the fee structure. Whilst we believe these fees to be very reasonable compared to lessons outside of school and recommended VMTA rates, we plan to make all music fees more consistent over time. These instruments are often studied through to VCE Music Performance and if there is an interest, we recognize the importance of training from an early age.

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.

ACCELERATED PROGRAM:

Many 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. Year seven SEAL students will be learning an instrument as part of the SEAL Band Class Program. There is no need to fill in this form unless students would like to learn an additional instrument.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WHS INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM:

All 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 or email a Director of Music. When students are allocated an instrument they will be issued with an email confirmation. Invoices are then posted to parents. *If you have any queries about the program, please contact a Director of Music before submitting this form.*

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 interested in assisting the Music Department in some capacity please provide your email address below.

Email:

Instrumental Music Application

Student Name: **Home Group:**

Home Phone Number:

Email (Parent):

Upon receipt of this form you will be invoiced accordingly once lessons commence. 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 as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Please note that it is a requirement of participation that students attend an ensemble 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. We recommend that parents seek the advice of our instrumental music staff before purchasing to assure the most suitable choice.

Number one or two boxes in order of preference.

Only number a second preference if you are prepared to learn that instrument:

Flute

Trombone

Clarinet

Euphonium

Alto Saxophone

French Horn

Tenor Saxophone

Percussion
(Drum Kit AND auxiliary percussion)

Trumpet

Bass Guitar
(Bass Guitar for Concert Band)

Vocals (note fee structure)

Guitar (note fee structure)

Due to limited space in the program, students may not have the option of learning their first preference instrument. Please note that subscription to the program does not guarantee that a student will receive a lesson every week of the school year. Please refer to point 6 of the Conditions of Participation for further clarification.

Please tick *one* box only in sections 1 and 2 (and 3 if appropriate).

SECTION 1: Instrument Choice

Concert Band instruments: flute, clarinet, bass guitar, percussion, trumpet, trombone, saxophone, other brass:

\$465 1 year Music Full Subscription Fee (lessons and concert band rehearsal)

Guitar or Vocals:

\$450 Group lessons one semester (lessons and vocal ensemble rehearsal)

\$900 Individual lessons one semester (recommended for VCE students)

SECTION 2: Hire Fees

\$240 per year for saxophone hire

\$190 per year for hire of all other instruments

No hire necessary

Section 3 (for students who learn externally and would like to be involved in an ensemble)

\$190 Reduced Subscription Fee.
My child currently takes instrumental lessons privately but would like to participate in an ensemble rehearsal.

Please read the Conditions of Agreement form 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:

Please return this form to the relevant campus Director of Music or the main office.

To give us some background information please answer the following:

What instrument(s) if any, have you learnt before and for how long?

Do you own your own instrument? If so, what is it?

Please note: The study of Music will be both challenging and rewarding. Parental interest and involvement is essential and will support your child to progress and achieve their goals. If your child experiences any difficulties please encourage them to communicate these to their instrumental music teacher, who will do their best to assist and accommodate. Further communication should be directed to the relevant Director of Music.

Further Information

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

Director of Music – Bayview	Jamila Brogan	brogan.jamila.r@edumail.vic.gov.au	93999228
Director of Music – Pasco	James Rust	rust.james.j@edumail.vic.gov.au	93971899
Business Manager	Tracey Fogarty	fogarty.tracey.l@edumail.vic.gov.au	93971899
Principal	Gino Catalano	catalano.giorgio.g@edumail.vic.gov.au	93971899

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.

From receipt of this form, you will be charged a one year subscription fee. Vocal and Guitar students will be charged for one semester.

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.

Details of the music subscription fee and instrument hire fees are listed on the **Instrumental Music Application** form. Fees must be paid by the due date.

School Council requires that if music fees are not paid by the due date, the student may be asked to withdraw from the Music Program.

Payment of the music subscription fee entitles students to participation in the music program, which includes having lessons and participating in an 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, illness or excursions). ***Subscription to the music program does not guarantee that the student will receive a lesson every week of the year.***

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 by the due date we reserve the right to discontinue lessons.

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.*

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.

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 ensure they 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 scheduled lessons and ensemble rehearsals (*on a rotational basis: ensuring that the same class is not missed very often*). If they cannot attend their conductor should be notified. If students do not attend rehearsal or lessons for two weeks without a valid reasons, 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 privately owned instruments will be allocated a music locker for security.

All reasonable care of instruments must be taken by the student to ensure 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 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 immediately.

Students should be encouraged by parents to establish and maintain a regular practice routine.

School instruments are not to be taken out of Australia.

Students and parents must understand and accept the responsibility that participating in our ensembles 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.

If a student has any concerns or difficulties they are encouraged to first communicate with their instrumental music teacher or conductor. If concerns persist students should contact a Director of Music.

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 a decision is made 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.