INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC POLICY
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WHAT IS MUSIC?

Music is Science
It is exact and specific; it demands exact acoustics. The Conductor's score is a chart, a graph, which indicates frequencies, intensities, volume, changes, melody, and harmony all at once with the most exact control of time.

Music is Mathematics
It is rhythmically based on the subdivision of time and fractions that must be done instantaneously, not worked out on paper.

Music is a Foreign Language
Most of the terms are in Italian, German or French. The notation is certainly not English, but a highly developed kind of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas.

Music is History
Music usually reflects the environment and times of its creation.

Music is Physical Education
Music requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lips, cheeks and facial muscles, in addition to extraordinary control of the diaphragmatic, back, stomach and chest muscles. These respond instantly to the sounds the ears hear and the mind interprets.

Music is all of these things, but most of all, Music is Art
It allows a human being to take all of these dry, technically boring and difficult techniques and use them to express emotions.

RATIONALE

Park Lake State School believes that educating the whole child will enhance the quality of education within the school. Provision of a balanced curriculum through an instrumental music program will develop in students awareness of, and sensitivity to, the importance of music in our everyday lives.
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC IN QUEENSLAND

The Music education of children in Queensland state schools is to be guided by a belief in the following principles:

1. The right of each individual to develop his/her music potential.
2. To develop an understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of music.
3. To develop a further knowledge of music and develop an appreciation of the discipline in performance required.
4. The use of camps and workshops to further develop the above.
5. To use music to develop the individual - socially, emotionally and physically.

Lessons

- One half-hour lesson per week in groups of 4-8 children
- Lessons are free of charge
- Attendance at all lessons is compulsory

Instruments Offered (Orchestral only)

- Flute
- Alto Saxophone
- French Horn
- Trumpet
- Trombone
- Tenor Saxophone
- Baritone Horn
- Bass Guitar
- Percussion/ Drums
- Clarinet
- Bass Clarinet
- Violin
- Viola
- Cello
- Double Bass

Ensemble

On gaining an appropriate standard, students will be required to join an ensemble. The Instrumental Music Teacher will advise the student when the standard has been reached, and when to begin attending rehearsals. It is a condition of membership that all students learning an instrument must be part of and attend Ensemble rehearsals. Ensemble rehearsals may be before school, during lunchtime or after school. Attendance is compulsory.
PROCEDURES FOR SELECTION OF INSTRUMENTAL STUDENTS

All children in Years 2 and 4 are tested by the classroom Music Teacher in Term 4 for possible inclusion in the School Instrumental Program for the following year. Brass, Percussion and Woodwind commences in Year 5; whilst String tuition begins in Year 3.

Student Selection

Assessment of students involves such personnel as -

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

Selection into the program is influenced by other factors as well. These include behaviour, perseverance, home support and commitment.

Instruments

Children will be included if they have their own instrument and pass a practical test given by the instrumental teacher. School instruments can be hired out subject to availability. It is required that at the end of the first 12 months parents purchase an instrument for their child thus freeing the school ones for re-allocation to beginners the following year. Cellos and Double Basses may be hired for up to three years. Tenor saxophones may be hired for longer than one year with the instructor's approval. It is a well known fact that children who have their own instrument are more likely to commit themselves to the program for a long period of time.

It is suggested that before parents choose an instrument to buy, they speak to the Instructor for recommendation on what type of instrument their child is suited to and what size is required. Children are ultimately responsible for the instrument they are using.
COMMITMENT

All students must commit to the program for one year. Exclusion from the program will only be allowed after one year of tuition has been completed. This will only occur after negotiation between student, parents, teacher and principal.

Parental Commitment

- Show an interest in the music study of your child
- Find a quiet place for your child to practise without interruption
- Arrange a regular time to practise
- Help your child with practice as much as possible, instructions in book and homework pad
- Provide a safe place to keep the instrument
- Keep the instrument in good repair with strings and reeds
- Encourage the student to be punctual for lessons, rehearsals and concerts
- Purchase tutor book and accessories as required by the instrumental teacher
- Feel free to attend a lesson from time to time so you have a better understanding of what is expected from your child

Student Commitment

- Practise at least 5 times each week – minimum 20 minutes – if students fail to practise for a period of 4 or more weeks their enrolment will be cancelled
- Become a member of the School Concert Band or String Ensemble or other groups designated by the music teacher
- Take part, as required, in ALL excursions, concerts and camp activities
- Attend lessons, rehearsals and other classes regularly as required

Attendance

- Students must attend all lessons and rehearsals
- Punctuality is vital and all lateness will be noted
- If students miss 4 consecutive lessons with no reason, their enrolment will be cancelled

Please be aware that tuition is free of charge and your child is enrolled with one term’s probation. Then, if satisfactory, for the rest of the time that your child attends this school he/she is a member of the Instrumental Music Program.
STUDENT PROGRESS ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

1. All Instrumental Teachers maintain a regular assessment record of each student's progress.
2. Written reports are sent home at the end of second and fourth term.
3. Administration and Music Staff hold an annual review of policy guidelines and implementation.
4. The child's enjoyment and involvement of their instrumental music studies is re-evaluated regularly to ensure that the student's maximum potential is reached.

PERFORMANCE POLICY

To ensure the fine reputation and quality of performance of each ensemble, only those musicians who have conducted themselves appropriately during rehearsals and who are of a suitable performance standard will be invited to perform.

During school and public performances every student must act as an ambassador of the school. At all times the student will behave in a responsible and dignified manner and follow instructions. Every student is required to assist with equipment and the technical arrangements of a concert.

COMPETITION POLICY

- Music competitions are the optimum performance opportunities for school music ensembles because of various factors, which include performance venue, warm-up procedures, and the focus being on the music (unlike other performance opportunities such as parades, community gatherings and variety concerts).

- Adjudication is a by-product of competition - it is necessary but may not always be a positive experience for all participants (players, directors and members of the audience). The adjudicator's decision is dependent on the adjudicator's likes, dislikes and perceptions.

- Prizes and trophies are bonuses after much hard work. However, hard work still has happened, regardless of whether there is a trophy to show for it.

- Competition + Motivation = Work = Optimum Result, which is the enjoyment of performing music as well as possible.

- Participation and enjoyment are the most important aspects of being involved with competitions.

Ultimately, it is the Instructor's decision as to whether the ensemble(s) participate in a competition. Factors include, date, travel requirements, cost, venue, student availability, work ethic of the group and its current standard.
PERFORMANCE UNIFORM

CONCERT BAND, STRING ORCHESTRA

Provided by Parents

- Full school uniform with black dress shoes and white socks

Please Note: Black sandshoes with white or coloured trimmings are NOT acceptable.

Incorrect uniform worn at a concert will result in your child being excluded from the band/orchestra for that particular performance.

COSTS

Lessons
Instrumental lessons are free!

Levy

All students involved in the Instrumental program are required to pay a yearly levy of $40. This money will meet travel expenses to concerts or performances outside of the school and provide resources (including orchestra/band scores) for the Instrumental Program. This levy must be paid before students can attend lessons.

Hire Fee

Children using school instruments will be charged a hire fee for the year of use. Flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trombone, trumpet, violins and violas are short-term hire instruments. Students learning these instruments should have their own instruments within 12 months. Bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, euphonium, baritone, cello and double bass are long-term hire instruments and may be hired for more than one year. The hire account will be presented at the beginning of each year ($90 per year for beginners and $160 for students hiring large instruments after the first year). This fee must be paid in full before instruments are allowed home.
INSTRUMENT NEEDS AND ACCESSORIES

STRING PROGRAM

All String Players
- Tricks to Tunes book 1
- Rosin
- Collapsible music stand
- Soft cloth to dust instrument (never use chemicals)
- 2 Clothes pegs
- A4 Display folder
- Pencil and eraser

Violin and Viola Students Only
- A height adjustable shoulder rest. Wolf is the best brand as they never break. School instruments come with a shoulder rest but students who purchase their own instrument must also provide a shoulder rest.

Cello and Bass Students Only
- May need a ‘rock stop’ to stop the spike slipping on the floor.

It is a good idea to carry these items in a ‘music bag’ (like a library bag) and to make sure everything is clearly labelled with your child’s name and class.

Please note: All string students will need to trim their left hand finger nails regularly. The correct left hand position cannot be achieved with long fingernails.

BAND PROGRAM

All band students
- Standard of Excellence Book 1 (for the specific instrument)
- Collapsible music stand
- A4 Display folder
- 2 Clothes pegs
- Pencil

Clarinets and Saxophones
- Reeds size 1 ½ or 2
- 1 pull through cleaning swab
- Cork grease

Flutes
- Cleaning cloth for inside the instrument (handkerchief is fine)
- Dry cleaning cloth to wipe the outside of the instrument

Trumpets
- Valve oil
- Tuning slide grease

Trombones
- Trombone slide cream
- Tuning slide grease

Percussion
- Drum sticks and practising pad
OWN INSTRUMENT PURCHASE

If you are searching for an instrument to purchase we can recommend the following quality brands of instruments in order of preference. There are a lot of cheaper instruments on the market which should be avoided due to poor quality. If in doubt any of the music teachers would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Recommended Brands

**Flutes:** Yamaha, Jupiter, Armstrong, Artley, Blessing

**Clarinets:** Yamaha, Armstrong, Artley

**Saxophones:** Yamaha, Selmer, Julius Keilworth, Yanagazawa

**Brass:** Yamaha, Boosey and Hawkes, Besson, Bach, B+S, Conn, King

**Violins:** Shimro, Arco, St. Antonio, Raggetti, Amore

**Recommended Music Shops on the Gold Coast and Brisbane**

Here are some music shops which you can hire or buy an instrument from, most have payment plans.

- **Allans Music Academy**
  Leichhardt St, Spring Hill
  Tel: 3831 0283

- **Animato Strings**
  28-42 Dominions Rd, Ashmore
  Tel: 55278077

- **Billy Hyde Gold Coast Music**
  53A Nerang St, Southport
  Tel: 5532 7100

- **Gold Coast Brass and Woodwind**
  25 Alicia St, Southport
  Tel: 55611773

- **Guitar World**
  New St, Nerang
  Tel: 55962588

- **Les Wilson (Strings Only)**
  20 High Ridge Rd, Gaven
  Tel: 5573 1795
  Mobile 0414 915 255

- **Music Express**
  Shop 2A Video Plaza Robina Town Drive, Robina
  Tel: 55930488

- **Normas Music**
  Centre Central Park Plaza, Ashmore
  Tel: 55393955