MOUNT CROSBY STATE SCHOOL

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

HANDBOOK 2015
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WELCOME TO THE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

RATIONALE & AIMS

Music is one part of the total education of a child. The Instrumental Music Program is an extension of the Classroom Music Program and provides children with the opportunity to experience the expressive qualities of music through learning to play a band/orchestral instrument. Through music education, the students are led to an awareness of music and an appreciation of the part music plays in their own lives and in the lives of others.

The aims of the Instrumental Music Program at Mt Crosby State School are:

- To provide an opportunity for the musical development of students through instrumental instruction on a group basis. Lessons are 1/2 hour in length, once a week, during school time.
- To provide ensemble experience for these students so that they develop ensemble performance skills as an integral part of their Music Education. Ensembles rehearse once a week, before school. The day of the week will be determined by the Instrumental Music Teacher’s itinerary.
- To encourage further development of team work, co-operation, organisation, responsibility and commitment, as well as positive peer relationships.
- To foster an appreciation of a variety of music styles and genres.

WHY LEARN TO PLAY AN INSTRUMENT?

There are now many documented studies, which show conclusively that learning music at an early age really does improve a child’s ability to think in many important areas.

We are all born with music ability and in those who are given the chance to develop these abilities, research has found there is increased reasoning capacity, memory, concentration, problem-solving skills, mathematics and language performance, and greater development of positive social and team interactions.

Research suggests that students who participate in school Arts programs, such as bands and choirs, are far less likely to become involved with drugs, crime or anti-social behaviour. They have a talent and a place to belong during crucial teenage years.

Music is a form of self-expression that provides a wonderful means of communicating and sharing with others and enhancing self-concepts.

## INSTRUMENTS TAUGHT AT THE SCHOOL

A wide variety of instruments from the four instrument families are taught at Mt Crosby SS. The four instrument families are: Woodwind, Brass, Percussion, and Strings. The instruments in each family include:

### Woodwind
- Flute
- Clarinet
- Bass Clarinet
- Alto Saxophone
- Tenor Saxophone

### Brass
- Trumpet
- French Horn
- Trombone
- Euphonium
- Tuba

### Percussion
- Tuned Percussion:
  - Glockenspiel, Timpani
  - Violin
- Un-Tuned Percussion:
  - Cymbals
  - Viola
- Snare/ Bass Drum, Cymbals
- Double Bass
- Snare/ Bass Drum, Cymbals
- Drum Kit
- Triangle, Crash Cymbals, Maracas etc
- Cello

### Acoustic Strings
- Cello
- Double Bass

### Woodwind:
A wind instrument whose sound is produced by the vibration of reeds in the mouthpiece or by passing of air across the mouthpiece.

### Brass:
Instruments that are made out of brass and use a mouthpiece and air to produce sound.

### Percussion:
Instruments that are made out of different materials and are struck with a stick, mallet or hand to produce a sound.

### Strings:
Instruments that are made of wood and that have strings which are bowed or plucked to produce a sound.
HOW NEW STUDENTS ARE RECRUITED

A selection process is used to determine a student’s suitability for inclusion in the program.

Rationale
1. With limited school instruments, instruction time and positions for each instrument, the process to ascertain the rank order of students to be offered a position and/ or school instruments is thorough.
2. All children have an equal chance of being involved in the recruitment process, allowing for prior experience or lack of.
3. In general, students are recruited in Year 2 for strings and Year 3/4 for woodwind, brass and percussion for commencement of lessons at the start of the following school year.
4. Children with their own instrument are not automatically offered a position, as suitability must be ascertained.
5. Children, who are already playing an instrument when transferring from another school, may be offered a position in the program if a vacancy exists.
6. If a vacancy occurs for a particular instrument, the child in the next rank order for that instrument is to be offered a position in the program.

The Selection Process:
1. Classroom Music Teacher:
   (a) Administers the Selmer Test (Pitch/ Rhythm) & Timbre Preference Test (Gordon).
   (b) Classroom Music Results
2. Classroom Teacher Reports on:
   (a) Behaviour
   (b) Numeracy & Literacy
   (c) Completion of home study tasks
   (d) Family Support
3. Instrumental Music Teachers test:
   Students on a variety of instruments and their physical characteristics are noted to help establish suitability for their preferences. In the case where they are deemed not suitable due to physical characteristics, then they may be offered a position on another instrument if places are available.
4. Resources:
   Consider the number of spaces available for each instrument type (which is determined by numbers required for a balanced ensemble sound), as well as the number of school instruments available for loan.
5. Administration:
   Discusses with Instrumental and Classroom Music Teacher suitability of individual students considering test results and prior knowledge of the student— behaviour, Literacy and Numeracy, and completion of homework tasks and parent support.
6. Information Evening for Parents & Students:
   (a) Explanation of parent and student commitment, financial and time requirements.
   (b) Students are notified of which instrument they have been carefully selected to learn.
7. Enrolment is confirmed when the Enrolment Form is completed and signed by parents and student. The position is not finalised until the Instrumental Music Levy and if applicable, the hire fee for school instrument has been paid by the first lesson, Week 2 of Term 1 of the year they commence instruction.
WHAT IS TAUGHT AND ASSESSED

The Instrumental Music Curriculum taught at our school has been adopted by all State Primary Schools in Queensland. Our curriculum centers on the basic components of the process of learning to play an instrument, which has been organised into eleven areas of learning and skill development. These areas are:

- Knowledge of the instrument
- Rhythm & Melodic Perception
- Playing Posture
- Improvisation & Composition
- Tone
- Sight Reading
- Pitch Repertoire
- Performance
- Tuning & Intonation
- Terms & Symbols
- Articulation

Our curriculum continues to develop each of these areas across Five Levels of Playing Standards. In Primary School, most students progress to a Level Two Playing Standard. As there is no set timeline, the aim of all music teachers is for students to strive to achieve a Level Five Playing Standard by the time they graduate from High School.

To assist us in teaching a variety of different instruments in a group setting, we use a method book to facilitate effective teaching of the curriculum. The method books currently being taught at Mt Crosby State School are:

- **Standard of Excellence/ Tradition of Excellence**– all woodwind, brass and percussion instruments.
- **Essential Elements**– all stringed instruments, e.g. violin, viola, cello

Students are formally assessed throughout each semester on their current playing ability and theoretical knowledge of the music. From this, Instrumental Music marks are included on student Semester report cards.

Aside from this, students are informally assessed at the end of each lesson in regards to their progress, attendance and behaviour. If any problems or concerns arise, the school will contact the parent/carers. In the same way, we also encourage that parents/ carers and students contact the Instrumental Music Teacher with any problems or concerns they may have in relation to a student learning their instrument and home practice. Please contact us at in the early stages of any problems before it escalates and the child wishes to give up.
POLICY: EXPECTATIONS & COMMITMENT FOR STUDENTS & PARENTS/ CARERS

Once a student has been selected and has enrolled in the program, there will be new responsibilities and expectations placed upon them and the family.

Responsibilities & Expectations for the Student include:
- Knowing lesson times each week;
- Bringing all equipment to each lesson (instrument, book etc.);
- Caring for the instrument and keeping it safe (respect property); and
- Notifying the Instrumental Music Teacher if the instrument needs repairs immediately. (Please do not attempt ANY repairs yourself).
- Punctually attending all lessons unless absent from school;
- Punctually attending all rehearsals and any “extra” rehearsals for specific events (occasional)
- Punctually attending all performances; and
- Committing to the program for 3 years (Band Program) and 4 years (Strings Program). Students continuing in the program until they cease enrolment in the school is the most desirable outcome for everyone involved in the Instrumental Music Program.

Parent/ Carer Expectations include:
- Assisting the student to meet his/ her own responsibilities (as above);
- Providing a suitable practice area and time for the student;
- Providing encouragement and positive reinforcement of the student’s progress;
- Providing the student with his/her own instrument when required.
- Paying the music levy due, and where appropriate, hire fee of the loan of a school instrument at the commencement of each year;
- Providing students with the method books and equipment to maintain the instrument in working order;
- Getting students to rehearsal on time i.e., arrive at school by 7:45am.
- Provide support for all performances;
- Contact Instrumental Music Teachers for assistance with issues regarding practice etc. in the early stages of issues arising.
- Provide students with the correct music uniform (See Page 9)

Absences from Lessons and Rehearsal
- Students are required to bring a note from home each time they are absent;
- Phone calls, emails and in-person visits are also acceptable from parents/ carers.

Leaving the Instrumental Music Program
- A student must have an exceptional reason for breaking his/ her 3 year commitment to the program. Parents/ Carers should contact the Instrumental Music Teacher, initially, in order to try and resolve ALL issues- before it gets to the point of the student wanting to drop out. Students cannot elect to drop out on their own accord.
- If initial discussions and problem solving with the Instrumental Music Teacher, parent and student has not produced any positive results after a negotiated time, then an interview will be set up between the student, parent, Instrumental Music Teacher and Administration to determine the best outcome for the Instrumental Music Program and the student involved.

Exclusion from the Instrumental Music Program
- It is a privilege for a student to be involved in the Instrumental Music Program;
- The school holds the right to exclude any student from participation either due to behaviour or lack of progress;
- Exclusion only occurs when all other avenues to resolve the circumstances have been unsuccessful.
SUPPLYING YOUR STUDENT WITH AN INSTRUMENT

WHAT SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR HIRE?

- **Alto Saxophone, Trombone**: Mt Crosby State School only has a small collection of these instruments that are loaned for a fee to selected students for one year only. It is expected that by the beginning of the student’s second year in the program, they will have their own instrument. Sometimes more places are offered on these instruments than there are school instruments available. Where students are selected for these instruments but not offered a school instrument, they will need to supply their own for the commencement of Term 1 in the year they commence tuition. Hire Cost: $75.00-$100.00/ year.

- **Tenor Saxophone, Bass Clarinet, French Horn, Euphonium, Tuba & Cello**: These larger instruments owned by the school are loaned for three years because they are expensive to purchase. It is intended that students selected for these instruments rent from the school for the entire three years. Hire Cost: $75.00-$100.00/ year.

- **Double Bass**: Is on loan for the entire time the student is enrolled in the Mt Crosby SS Instrumental Music Strings Program.

- **Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Violin & Viola**: Students selected for these instruments are required to supply their own instrument for the commencement of Term 1 for the year they commence tuition.

- **Percussion**: Students selected for percussion will need to supply the basic equipment - their own sticks, practice pad, and 32 note chromatic glockenspiel for the commencement of Term 1 of the year they begin tuition. As percussionists, they have to play a wide variety of instruments which would be too many and too expensive to buy. Therefore, the school provides other instruments which students pay a levy of $25 every year to use. This contributes to the repair and replacement of instruments.

IF I HAVE TO SUPPLY AN INSTRUMENT, WHERE DO I BUY/ HIRE AN INSTRUMENT?

Most music stores offer a hire scheme as well as selling new and pre-loved instruments. Second-hand instruments of reputable brands can be a very acceptable and cost-effective way of providing an instrument. It is advisable to check with the Instrumental Music Teacher before purchasing an instrument located through the paper or private sale. See Page 13 for Recommended Music Stores and Page 14 for a list of things to look for when buying second-hand instruments.

**Tips for Locating a Suitable Instrument**

- Consult the Instrumental Music Teacher for advice and information on which brands to look for, bring it to them to have look if you can;
- Consider all options before deciding on the one that is best for you: rental, purchase plans, buying a pre-loved instrument, borrowing an instrument from someone you know;
- Shop around! Ask all shops why should you go to them and what deals and extras can they offer you others cannot?
- Buyer beware: there are many cheap instruments out there on the market today, usually made in China. The quality is inferior to that of reputable brands and often leads to many repairs being made on the instrument which can become costly in the long run, as well as affect student progress and quality of playing (such as intonation)
COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROGRAM

Music Levy

Instrumental Music Lessons are free for students (private lessons range anywhere from $15 for small groups to up to $30 per half hour individual lesson) but there are considerable costs involved in running an Instrumental Program. It is therefore necessary to charge each student a small annual levy of $30. This goes towards such expenses as photocopying, purchasing new music and instruments and maintenance of equipment.

Performance Uniform

Because this is an ensemble-based program, Mt Crosby State School has a Performance Uniform, which is worn to all competitions and public performances. This consists of black shorts (knee-length), black closed-in shoes (no white or colour permitted on the shoes), white socks and the music shirt which is available from the uniform shop. Students are permitted to wear the music shirt as part of their school uniform on the day they have their music lesson. The shirt costs $40.00.

Additional Costs

There are some additional costs which will occur throughout the year. These may include:

- Reeds for clarinets and saxophones;
- Valve oil and slide grease for trumpets, euphoniums, tubas, French horns; trombones;
- Rosin, shoulder rest for strings;
- Cleaning equipment;
- Compulsory Music Method Book (Tradition of Excellence - woodwind, brass and percussion & Essential Elements 2000 - strings) pencil and eraser;
- Entrance fees for spectators at Eisteddfods for Parents/ Carers ($2-$10);
- Cost of bus transport to band performances during school time.
- Music stand for home practice.
- Metronome. There are free metronome apps that can be downloaded to phones/ tablets.
SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR INSTRUMENTS

Below is a helpful list of required accessories students need to learn music. Just as a car needs petrol, oil, water, and regular servicing, so do musical instruments to help them stay in good working order. Purchasing the items specific to the instrument your child will learn will assist them on their way in achieving their full potential as an instrumentalist.

General Requirements for ALL Instruments: CHECKLIST

- Instrument (own instrument or school loan)
- Pencil and Eraser
- Music stand for home practice (important in developing correct posture)
- Black Band folder available from the school office.
- A4 display folder for handouts, letters etc.

Method Book:
- *Essential Elements 2000* for Strings

Specific Instrument Requirements: ACCESSORIES CHECKLIST

**Flute:** small cleaning cloth, polishing cloth.
**Clarinet & Bass Clarinet:** cleaning swab/pull through, reeds (beginners: 4x 1&1/2 reeds), cleaning cloth, cork grease, thumb rest (optional), reed guard, neck strap (optional).
**Saxophone:** Padded neck strap, cleaning swab/pull through, reeds (beginner: 4 x 1&1/2), cleaning cloth, cork grease, reed guard.
**Trumpet, French Horn, Baritone/ Euphonium, Tuba:** Cleaning cloth, bottle of valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece and slide cleaning brushes.
**Trombone:** Cleaning cloth, water spray bottle, slide grease, mouthpiece and slide cleaning brushes.
**Percussion:** Pair of drum sticks (size 5A), rubber practice pad and stand, 32 note chromatic Glockenspiel.
**Violin/ Viola:** Rosin, shoulder rest (correct size), 2 cleaning cloths.
**Cello/ Double Bass:** Rosin, 2 cleaning cloths.

*It is important that students bring all equipment to every lesson/ rehearsal and performance. Names should be clearly marked on all items.*
HINTS FOR SUCCESSFUL MUSIC PRACTICE

- Practise in a place where you won’t be disturbed or distracted;
- Always practise with your music on a music stand;
- Work out a practice schedule around other commitments and homework/chores and stick to it.
- Try to practise at least 20-30 minutes, five to seven days per week.
- **Practise Makes Perfect:** keep practicing the things you can’t do well until you can do it. It may take a few goes, a few days or even a week before something is perfected. So don’t be too hard on yourself. A quote by Thomas Eddison in regard to his development of the light bulb is an example to us all, "If I find 10,000 ways something won't work, I haven't failed. I am not discouraged, because every wrong attempt discarded is another step forward."
- Reward yourself for good work in your practice time by finishing with your favourite piece of music.
- Keep a record of your own practice—don’t forget to be honest!

HOW TO PRACTICE A DIFFICULT PIECE OF MUSIC:

- Play the piece right through slowly;
- Start at the beginning again and when you come to a difficult part, stop, decide which notes/rhythm are giving you trouble and practise them SLOWLY over and over again. Don’t play them faster until you can play them easily.
- Do the same with any other difficult bits in the music;
- Play the whole piece again slowly;
- Play the whole piece through at the proper speed.

If you are having trouble practicing……..

- Are you sure you know the notes?
- Do you understand the timing and counting?
- Are you using enough air/bow?
- Are your fingers in the right place?

If you are still having trouble, ask your Instrumental Music Teacher for help at your next lesson.
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MUSIC YEAR

Throughout the year, our bands take part in a variety of activities designed to build their confidence and competence in performing with their instrument in an ensemble situation. It is expected that students attend all performances.

Competitions

Competitive performances throughout the year include:

- Fanfare (a biannual competition in May);
- Silkstone Eisteddfod (August);
- Brisbane Schools Band Festival (October).

Other Performances

- School Concert (September)
- School Parades and special events
- Anzac Day Ceremony
- Twilight Markets
- Beginner Band Workshops
- Attending a Queensland Symphony Orchestra concert.

Music Camps

Year 5 & 6 students who have reached a high standard of playing—must be at least page 10 of Book 2 are invited to audition for the Intermediate and Honours WestCent Music Camps, held in May.

Year 5 & 6 students who have also reached a Level 1.5, are also able to nominate for the Ipswich District Music Camp.

The bands are a wonderful way to demonstrate the high musical standard of the Instrumental Music Program at our school and of sharing the talents and developing skills of our participating students. This is one of the reasons bands and ensembles are an integral part of the Instrumental Music Program in all schools.
SUGGESTED MUSIC SHOPS

The Best Music Shop
Christie’s Homemaker Centre
38 Goggs Rd
Jindalee, QLD 4074
Phone: 07 3376 5454
Web: www.bestmusicshop.com.au
Email: sales@bestmusicshop.com.au

Instrumental Music Australia
Suite 21, 200 Moggill Road,
Taringa, QLD 4068
Phone: 07 3871 1333
Web: www.imusicau.com.au
Email: info@imusicau.com.au

Brass Music Specialists
90 Appel St,
Graceville, QLD
Phone: 07 3278 1311
Web: brassmusic.com.au
Email: brass@brassmusic.com.au
Instrument sales & repairs.

Brisbane Brass & Woodwind
7 Enoggera Tce, Red Hill, QLD 4059
Phone: 07 3367 8776
Web: www.ozwinds.com.au
Instrument sales & repairs

Music Express
2049 Logan Rd, Upper Mt Gravatt, QLD 4122
Phone: 07 3849 7088
Web: www.musicexpress.com.au
Email: loganroad@musicexpress.com.au

John Masson’s Music Centre
1512 Logan Road
Mt Gravatt, QLD 4122
Phone: 3349 2006
Web: www.massonmusic.com
Email: sales@massonmusic.com

Simply For Strings
78 Enoggera Terrace
Red Hill, QLD, 4059
Phone: 1300 739 293
Web: www.simplyforstrings.com.au

Music Focus
124 Brisbane Rd,
Booval, QLD 4304
Phone: 07 3812 1880
Web: www.musicfocus.com.au
Email: Ipswich@musicfocus.com.au

Audrey’s Music Shop
10 Jane St,
West End QLD 4101
Phone: 1300 801 390
Email: www.audreysmusic.com.au
Instrument sales & repairs.

Animato Strings
9/62 Bishop St
Kelvin Grove, QLD
Phone: 1300 739 777
Web: www.animato.com.au
PURCHASING SECOND-HAND INSTRUMENTS

Care should be taken when considering the purchase of a second-hand instrument. It is always best to have your Instrumental Instructor or a professional repairer look over the instrument before purchase.

As a general rule, don’t buy anything with a brand name that swims or flies eg. “Skylark”, and stick with brands sold in reputable music shops. What to look for in a second-hand instrument:

**BRASS: TRUMPET, EUPHONIUM**
- Check for wearing on valves.
- Check for dints in the value casings
- Check for large dints on the body of the instrument that may affect tuning
- Check for pitting on the valves
- Check for dents in the shank of the mouthpiece.
- Check that all slides are operational
- Check that the spring works on the water key/s and that the cork seals the hole properly and is not deteriorated.

**BRASS: TROMBONE**
- Check for pitting in the slide
- Check for dints in the outer slide
- Check that the tuning slide is operational
- Check for dents in the bend of the slide
- Check that the spring works on the water key
- Check for dints in the shank of the mouthpiece

**WOODWIND: FLUTE**
- Check that there are not too many small or large dints
- Check the plating to ensure that it is not too worn
- Check the cork/ felt bumpers are in good condition or are not missing
- Check the pads under the keys (these are felt covered with rice paper). They should not be split or torn. Press lightly with the finger nail to see if they are soft.

**WOODWIND: CLARINET/ BASS CLARINET/ SAXOPHONE:**
- Check that there are not too many small or large dints
- Check the plating to ensure it is not too worn
- Check the cork/ felt bumpers
- Check the pads under the keys (clarinets have felt covered with rice paper, saxophone pads are leather) They should not be split or torn. Press lightly with a finger nail to see that they are reasonably soft.
- Check that all corks; tenon (clarinet/ bass clarinet) and goose neck (saxophones) have no chunk out of them.
- Check the mouthpiece has no chips out of the tip.
STRATEGIES FOR PARENTS TO ENCOURAGE CHILDREN TO PLAY

Encourage children not to just practise but also encourage them to play. This relates not just to beginning to play an instrument, but to students continuing to play through to Year 6 and beyond.

Playing an instrument in a room behind closed doors can be a very lonely experience. A little encouragement can go a long way to helping them to enjoy and achieve well with their instrument. Try one, some, or all of these and add any that other parents may suggest.

- Have your child play near you so you can hear and enjoy their practice, maybe not every day but every so often. Even sit down and read a book or just sit and listen.
- Ask them to teach you how to read the notes/rhythms they are learning.
- Praise all of their sounds (especially the good ones) often.
- Make a positive comment about the progress you notice.
- Show pride in their achievements and let them overhear you talking about them.
- Ask them to play for guests at home (they may not want to but sometimes just being asked means a lot to them).
- Comment on the piece of music—interesting melody, rhythm etc.
- Take them to a music store to buy music books for their instrument. Buy books that come with a CD accompaniment that the students can play along with. The tutor book in class only serves the purpose of introducing music concepts and students sometimes need that something extra.
- Set a practice routine and encourage your child to stick to it. This is particularly important if your child or the household are involved in other activities outside of school.
- Don’t nag or push your child to practise—it can become very stressful for both you and your child.
- Use reward systems or take away a privilege eg. Watching TV, playing Xbox until the practice is done.
- Video/record your child playing.
- Listen to professional players of their instruments. Buy recordings, go to concerts, or even watch them on YouTube (If the performer is playing in a concert hall, has an accompanist, or an ensemble accompanying them, then usually their performance will be of a high standard).
- If you are finding it difficult to get your child to practise, please come and talk to your Instrumental Music Teacher, before you and your child are ready to give up.