



**MOUNT CROSBY
STATE SCHOOL**

STRONG AND SURE

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MOUNT CROSBY STATE SCHOOL



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC HANDBOOK

2024

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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.

Link: <http://www.supporttmf.org/documents/BenefitsofMusic-Web.pdf>

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
Trombone
Euphonium
Tuba
French Horn

Percussion

Tuned Percussion:
Glockenspiel, Timpani
Un-Tuned Percussion:
Snare/ Bass Drum, Cymbals
Drum Kit
Auxiliary Percussion:
Triangle, Crash Cymbals, Maracas etc

Acoustic Strings

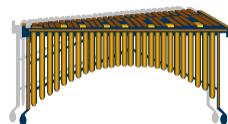
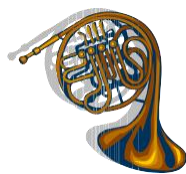
Violin
Viola
Cello
Double Bass

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 from brass and use a mouthpiece and air to produce sound.

PERCUSSION: Instruments that are made from 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 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. Receiving private tuition prior to the selection process does not mean automatic entry into the program. Students still need to be assessed and positions offered if a vacancy exists and does not affect the balance of instruments 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 and arrives on time and attendance.
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 due date.

WHAT IS TAUGHT AND ASSESSED

The Instrumental Music Curriculum taught at our school has been adopted by all State Primary Schools in Queensland. There are Three Course Components of the Instrumental Music Curriculum– *Performance Ensembles, Group Lessons & Practice* of which students music actively engage in *all* three. The curriculum centers on 3 Dimensions– *Literacy, Technique and Performance* and within these dimensions are 10 objectives which are explicitly taught to prepare students for ensemble playing. These are as follows:

Literacy:

Knowledge of the instrument
Terms & Symbols
Rhythm & Melodic
Sight Reading

Technique:

Playing Posture
Tone
Pitch Repertoire
Tuning & Intonation
Articulation

Performance:

Solo and Ensemble performance

The curriculum continues to develop each of these areas across Ten Levels of Playing Standards. In Primary School, most students will progress to a Level Three Playing Standard. As there is no set timeline, the aim of all music teachers is for students to strive to achieve a Level TEN 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:

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS BOOK 1 for all Strings

STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE BOOK 1 *Enhanced* for Band Instruments

ASSESSMENT: 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 regard 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.

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 *may* include:

- Fanfare (a biannual competition in May);
- Music Fest (October)
- Jacaranda Festival (October) - last Saturday of October

Other Performances

- School Concert
- ANZAC Parade
- End of Year Music Evening Concert

Music Workshops

Students who have reached the required standard of playing, are able to nominate for the *Ipswich District and Rural Bootcamp (beginners)* and *Bantastic (intermediate players)* and *String Workshops*.

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.



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:

- Regularly engage in all 3 Course Components of the Instrumental Music Curriculum: Ensemble, Group Lesson and Practice.
- 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, especially in fulfilling the regular engagement of the 3 Course Components of the Instrumental Music Curriculum– Ensemble, Group Lessons and Practice,
- 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 7:20am.
- 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 or students are not regularly engaging in all 3 Course Components of the Instrumental Music Program– Ensemble, Group Lessons and Practice.
- Exclusion only occurs when all other avenues to resolve the circumstances have been unsuccessful.

COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROGRAM

Music Levy

First Year Band Students- *\$30 Music Levy*, which covers the costs of photocopying and includes \$10 for the mandatory black band folder. Parents will receive this band folder from the office when they pay their Music Levy in full.

All String Students, and 2nd/ 3rd Year Band Students- *Music Levy is \$20 per year*. This covers the costs of photocopying.

Performance Uniform:

- Music Shirt (ordered through uniform shop costs approx. \$40.00)
- School Black shorts/ skirts
- Black shoes (no colour) and white socks.

Must be worn to all performances. Students are permitted to wear the music shirt as part of their school uniform on the day they have their music lesson.

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 (Standard of Excellence Book 1- woodwind, brass and percussion & Essential Elements 2000 - strings) pencil and eraser;
- Entrance fees for spectators at Eisteddfods for Parents/ Carers;
- Cost of bus transport to band performances during school time.
- Music stand for home practice. This is essential and is not an option.
- Metronome. There are free metronome apps that can be downloaded to phones/ tablets.

WHAT SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR HIRE?

1 Year Loan Instrument:

- **Alto Saxophone & Trombone**

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. **Hire Cost: \$120.00**

3 Year Loan Instrument:

- **Tenor Saxophone, Bass Clarinet, French Horn, Euphonium, Tuba**

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: \$120.00/ year**

4 Year Loan Instruments:

- **Cello & Double Bass:** Is on loan for the entire time the student is enrolled in the Mt Crosby SS Instrumental Music Strings Program. **Hire Cost: \$120.00/ year.**

BYO Instruments: (these instruments are not available for loan from the school)

- **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 and stand for the commencement of Term 1 of the year they begin tuition.



BAND BOOK LIST, INSTRUMENT ACCESSORIES & TECHNOLOGY

INSTURMENT	INSTRUMENT BRAND	METHOD BOOK	ACCESSORIES
FLUTE (BYO)	Yamaha, Pearl, Jupiter, Armstrong, Trevor James	Standard of Excellence Enhanced Book 1 Flute	Pencil, eraser, A4 display folder, music stand, small cleaning cloth, polishing cloth, thumb port (optional but will help with holding the flute)
CLARINET (BYO)	Yamaha, Buffet, Jupiter, Leblanc, Artley	Standard of Excellence Enhanced Book 1 Clarinet	Pencil, eraser, A4 display folder, music stand, pull-through, 4 x size 2 reeds, cleaning cloth, cork grease, thumb rest, reed holder, neck strap.
TRUMPET (BYO)	Yamaha, Bach, Jupiter, Schagerl, King	Standard of Excellence Enhanced Book 1 Trumpet	Pencil, eraser, A4 display folder, music stand, cleaning cloth, bottle of Al Cass valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece and slide cleaning brushes.
PERCUSSION (BYO)	Mapex, Mitello, Majestic, Ross, Vic Firth, Optimum Percussion	Standard of Excellence Enhanced Book 1 Drums & Mallets	Pencil, eraser, A4 display folder, music stand, Pair of Vic Firth drum sticks (size 5A), Remo Tunable practice pad and stand, 32 note chromatic Glockenspiel, stand and carry bag.
ALTO SAXOPHONE	(school hire)	Standard of Excellence Enhanced Book 1 Alto Saxophone	Pencil, eraser, A4 display folder, music stand, pull through, 4 x size 2 reeds, cleaning cloth, cork grease, reed holder.
TENOR SAXOPHONE	(school hire)	Standard of Excellence Enhanced Book 1 Tenor Saxophone	Pencil, eraser, A4 display folder, music stand, pull through, 4 x size 2 reeds, cleaning cloth, cork grease, reed holder.
TROMBONE	(school hire)	Standard of Excellence Enhanced Book 1 Trombone	Pencil, eraser, A4 display folder, music stand, cleaning cloth, water spray bottle, "Slide-O-Mix All In One" mouthpiece brush.
EUPHONIUM	(school hire)	Standard of Excellence Enhanced Book 1 Baritone BC (Bass Clef)	Pencil, eraser, A4 display folder, music stand, cleaning cloth, bottle of Al Cass valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush.
TUBA	(school hire)	Standard of Excellence Enhanced Book 1 Tuba	Pencil, eraser, A4 display folder, music stand, cleaning cloth, bottle of Al Cass valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush.
FRENCH HORN	(school hire)	Standard of Excellence Enhanced Book 1 French Horn	Pencil, eraser, A4 display folder, music stand, Cleaning cloth, rotor valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush.

TECHNOLOGY:

Students will need to access to a device such as an ipad or a tablet. The Method Books have online resources that have backing tracks and practice tools which will assist students with practice and motivation. **BAND STUDENTS** will be encouraged to use the following resources. The devices they are compatible with are also indicated.

Apps	iOS device (App Store)	Android (Google Play)
Interactive Practice Studio - free with Standard of Excellence Enhanced Comprehensive Band Method (information in front cover of book)	✓	✓
Bandmate Chromatic Tuner (free)	✓	✓
Staff Wars Live (small fee)- Note reading app, played with instrument	✓	
Staff Wars (small fee)- Note reading app, only uses computer device		✓
NinGenius Music Ultimate (small fee)- Practices notes, rhythm, theory & fingering	✓	✓

STRING BOOK LIST & INSTRUMENT ACCESSORIES

IMPORTANT!

Students will need to have the following books and accessories for their first lesson in Week 2 Term 1, 2020. Please refer to page 13 of the Instrumental Music Handbook for *some* suggested music stores. Please note that this is not a comprehensive list of stores.

INSTURMENT	INSTRUMENT BRAND	METHOD BOOK	ACCESSORIES
VIOLIN (BYO)	Enrico, Hindersine Vivente, Arioso, Gliga	Essential Elements Book 1 Violin	Pencil, eraser, A4 display folder, music stand, Rosin, shoulder rest (correct size), 2 cleaning cloths.
VIOLA (BYO)	Enrico, Hindersine Vivente, Arioso, Gliga	Essential Elements Book 1 Viola	Pencil, eraser, A4 display folder, music stand, rosin, shoulder rest (correct size), 2 cleaning cloths.
CELLO	(school hire)	Essential Elements Book 1 Cello	Pencil, eraser, A4 display folder, music stand, rosin, 2 cleaning cloths.
DOUBLE BASS	(school hire)	Essential Elements Book 1 Double Bass	Pencil, eraser, A4 display folder, music stand, rosin, 2 cleaning cloths.

PURCHASING NEW INSTRUMENTS:

The Department of Education & Training has approved a Standing Offer Arrangement (SOA) for musical instruments and music stands. The SOA outlines preferred suppliers, and preferred brands and models of instruments to ensure that both schools and parents are purchasing quality instruments as buying inferior instruments are typically harder to play and do not last as long. Some music stores also offer a hire/purchase scheme as well so check with them about this option. See Page 13 for a list of music stores on the DET Standing Offer Arrangement.

PURCHASING SECOND-HAND 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 brands with the Instrumental Music Teacher before purchasing an instrument located through the paper or private sale and where possible have a qualified repairer has a look at it.* Please see Page 15 for a list of things to check when looking at secondhand woodwind or brass Instruments.

WE RECOMMEND:

- Sticking with the brands listed above whether buying new or second-hand to ensure you are buying a quality instrument, that won't hinder beginners, and is going to last longer.
- Avoid instruments with no brand name - quality instruments always have a brand.
- Avoid instruments without cases - the instrument may have damage.
- Avoid instruments in unusual colours such as blue or pink - they are poor quality.
- Avoid buying instruments available from shops that are not music shops (such as grocery stores)

LIST OF MUSIC STORES

STORES LISTED UNDER THE DEPARTMENTS SOA AGREEMENT	
<p>Brass Music Specialist (Brass & Woodwind) ABN: 73 060 447 574 90 Appel Street, Graceville QLD 4075 Name: Samuel Marsden Email: education@brassmusic.com.au Phone: (07) 3278 1311 Fax: (07) 3379 5146</p>	<p>Vivace Music (Woodwind, Brass, Percussion, Strings) 36 Compton Rd, Underwood QLD 4119 Phone: 30904268 Website: https://vivacemusic.com.au</p>
<p>Simply for Strings (Strings only) ABN: 60 177 631 464 78 Enoggera Terrace, Red Hill QLD 4059 Name: Teegan Dowdell Email: teegan@simplyforstrings.com.au Phone: (07) 3368 3666 Fax: (07) 3368 3888 Website: http://www.simplyforstrings.com.au/</p>	<p>Just Percussion (Percussion Only) ABN: 15 198 237 926 13 Creswell Street, Newstead QLD 4006 Email: tom@justpercussion.com.au Phone: (07) 3216 0801 Fax: (07) 3852 3473</p>
<p>The School Locker (Woodwind, Brass, Percussion) ABN: 47 163 198 409 95-103 Hyde Road, Yeronga QLD 4104 Name: Tim Muller Email: schools@theschoollocker.com.au Phone: 1800 826 155</p>	<p>Optimum Percussion (Percussion Only) ABN: 11 164 568 352 42 Burwood Rd, Burwood NSW 2134 Email: sales@optimumpercussion.com.au Phone: 1300 850 242 https://www.optimumpercussion.com.au</p>
<p>Engadine Music Education Centre ABN: 61 163 660 982 25 Station Street Engadine NSW 2233 Email: shop@engadinemusic.com.au Phone: 1300 731 035 Fax: (02) 9548 1392 Website: https://engadinemusic.com.au</p>	<p>McKenzie Music Etcetera ABN: 70 576 552 027 37 Raff Street, Toowoomba QLD 4350 Email: mckenzie@musicetcetera.com.au Phone: 0438 790 244 Website: http://www.musicetcetera.com.au/</p>
<p>Shake It Up Music ABN: 37 116 935 150 Shop 4, 186 Currie Street, Nambour QLD 4560 Email: sales@shakeitupmusic.com.au Phone: (07) 5441 5454 Fax: (07) 5441 5353 Website: http://www.shakeitupmusic.com.au</p>	
OTHER MUSIC STORES	
<p>Ozwinds Brisbane Brass & Woodwinds (and percussion) 11/13/360 Logan Rd Stones Corner/ Greenslopes QLD 4120 Phone: 31180166 Website: https://www.ozwinds.com.au</p>	<p>Morris Brothers Musical Store (Woodwind/ Brass/ Percussion) 2/12 Billabong St, Stafford QLD 4053 Phone: 33563299 Website: https://morrisbrothersmusicstore.com</p>
<p>Animato Strings (Strings) Unit 5, 789 Kingsford Smith Drive Eagle Farm QLD 4009, Australia Phone 07 3876 3877 Website: https://animato.com.au</p>	<p>The Music Spot (Woodwind/ Brass/ Percussion/ Strings) 129 Browns Plains Rd, Browns Plains QLD 4118 Phone: 3800 5229 Website: https://musicspot.com.au</p>

*This is not a comprehensive list of stores and does not reflect personal preferences.

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", no names and Chinese names and stick with brands sold in reputable music shops. *What to look for in a second-hand instrument:*

BRASS: TRUMPET, EUPHONIUM– Yamaha, Bach, Jupiter, Conn

- Check for wearing on valves.
- Check for dints in the valve 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– Bach, Jupiter, Yamaha, Conn

- Check for pitting in the slide.
- Check for dints in the outer slide.
- Check that the tuning slide is operational.
- Check for dints in the bend of the slide.
- Check that the spring works on the water key.
- Check for dints in the shank of the mouthpiece.
- Check for corrosion on the plating of the inner tubing of the slide.

WOODWIND: FLUTE– Yamaha, Armstrong, Gemeinhardt, Trevor James, Jupiter

- 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 fingernail to see if they are soft.

WOODWIND: CLARINET/ BASS CLARINET (Buffet, Yamaha, Selmer, Jupiter) / SAXOPHONE (Yamaha, Selmer, Jupiter, Yanigasawa, Keilworth, Buffet):

- 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 the pads seal the holes when closed. Check that all corks; tenon (clarinet/ bass clarinet) and goose neck (saxophones) have no chunks out of them.
- Check the mouthpiece has no chips out of the tip.

WE RECOMMEND YOU STAY AWAY FROM:

- Online auctions unless you are confident of the source (and remember if purchasing from overseas warranty issues will be a problem)
- Instruments with no brand name - quality instruments always have a brand.
- Instruments without cases - the instrument may have damage.
- Instruments in unusual colours such as blue or pink - the student will soon be told to get another one!
- Instruments available from shops that are not music shops (such as grocery stores).

HINTS FOR SUCCESSFUL MUSIC PRACTICE

- Practice in a place where you won't be disturbed or distracted;
- Always practice with your music on a music stand;
- Work out a practice schedule around other commitments and homework/ chores and stick to it.
- Try to practice at least 20-30 minutes, five to seven days per week.
- **Practice 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 practice them SLOWLY repeatedly. 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.



STRATEGIES FOR PARENTS TO ENCOURAGE CHILDREN TO PLAY

Encourage children not to just practice 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/ online 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 practice—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 practice, please come and talk to your Instrumental Music Teacher, before you and your child are ready to give up.

