

Howard State School

Instrumental Music Handbook



Contents

WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL.....	3
PURPOSE OF THE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM.....	3
FAMILY COMMITMENT.....	3
PARENT & STUDENT CONTRACT.....	3
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC (IM) PROGRAM.....	3
PRINCIPLES OF THE PROGRAM.....	4
SELECTION OF STUDENTS.....	4
LESSONS.....	4
EXPECTATIONS.....	4
COSTS.....	5
INSTRUMENTS.....	5
CONDITIONS FOR THE LOAN OF AN INSTRUMENT FROM THE SCHOOL.....	5
PURCHASING YOUR OWN INSTRUMENT.....	5
CLASS RESOURCES & EQUIPMENT.....	6
COMMUNICATION.....	6
METHODS OF COMMUNICATION.....	6
STUDENT WITHDRAWAL.....	6
SCHOOL INSTRUMENT DAMAGE REPORT.....	7
COMMITMENT AND PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT.....	8





WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to the Instrumental Music Program at Howard State School. Being a part of the instrumental program is an honour and a privilege. I know that you will make the most of the opportunities that our program will provide. I look forward to watching you and your fellow students perform at different times in the future.

Please take time to read this booklet so that you are aware of your commitment to the program.

Happy music-making!

Mr Gary Boobyer

Principal

PURPOSE OF THE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Music is a unique and integral part of life. It has the capacity to inspire all students' creativity and imagination, engage them in the art of expression, immerse them in a language and history that is rich in culture, provide them with opportunities beyond the classroom and excite them about life and learning.

The skills, concepts and attitudes that students acquire as a result of music education benefit them not only during their schooling but also in the years beyond, whatever their chosen career path.

To find out how playing an instrument positively affects and improves brain function, discipline, learning, problem solving, attention span, memory, social responsibility and much more head to the Bigger, Better Brains website.

www.biggerbetterbrains.com

The overarching purpose of the Instrumental Music Program is to provide students with the opportunity to become musicians and experience the expressive qualities of music through learning to play a band or orchestral instrument in group lessons and to participate in performance ensembles such as concert bands and orchestras.

FAMILY COMMITMENT

Before committing to a position in the program, we recommend reading this handbook and discussing its requirements with your child and family members. Commitment is required from both the student and the parent/carer. Involvement in instrumental music affects the daily lifestyle of the whole family.

Students require a suitable place in the home for at least 15 minutes of quality practice a minimum of 5 times per week.

PARENT & STUDENT CONTRACT

Students are expected to give a commitment to the program for a minimum of one year with the expectation that they continue through to the end of their schooling.

Both parents/guardians and students are asked to sign the Instrumental Music Participation and Commitment Agreement (located at the back of this booklet). Please read carefully and discuss with your child.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC (IM) PROGRAM

The Queensland State Schools Instrumental Music Program is a comprehensive tuition program in which students learn orchestral or band instruments. It provides an extra dimension to a school music program ensuring that educational outcomes are maximised for all students. It provides the opportunity for musical development of students through instrumental instruction on a group basis and ensemble and performance experience.

NOTE: Not all instruments are part of the Instrumental Music Online (IMOL) program. Instruments offered are: Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone and Baritone.

PRINCIPLES OF THE PROGRAM

- Small group tuition on selected instruments following the Queensland Instrumental Music Curriculum.
- Students are to have one contact period per week, in an online setting.
- The duration of the lesson should be not less than 30 minutes. Timetabling and grouping is at the discretion of the IM Teacher and Principal.
- Attendance at every instrumental music lesson is compulsory.
- All students will participate in regular practical assessments and will receive a report at the end of each semester. Their assessments will be recorded as part of the curriculum requirements for assessment

SELECTION OF STUDENTS

In Term 4 each year, interested students in Year 3-5 will participate in an assessment process, to assess student suitability to participate in the instrumental music program the following year.

This may include:

- General music aptitude test
- Responsibility, organisation, academic and behaviour ability as assessed by the class teachers
- Physical suitability for particular instruments
- A knowledge and acceptance of the expectations of the program and home support
- Instrument availability
- The need to recruit a balanced group of instruments
- Teacher time allocation
- Students may make instrument choices based on:
 - Seeing and hearing the instruments played
 - Knowing the type of music the instrument plays
 - Information provided around the challenges of each instrument including getting the instrument to and from school

Having your own instrument does not guarantee your child a position in the program.

LESSONS

- Online small group lessons run for 30 minutes, once a week during class time on a static timetable. Students leave their regular class to attend these lessons. It is the students' responsibility to catch up on any class work they may have missed.
- Lesson timetables will be displayed in the music room.
- Attendance at every Instrumental Music lesson is compulsory.
- Lessons follow the Queensland Instrumental Music Curriculum.
- All students will participate in regular practical assessments and will receive a report at the end of each semester. Their assessments will be recorded as part of the curriculum requirements for assessment.

EXPECTATIONS

- Students must attend all lessons.
- Students must practice at home.
- Students must bring all equipment (instrument, accessories) to every lesson.
- Students must make every effort to care for their instrument.
- Students must commit to the full school calendar year.



COSTS

There are fees associated to participate in the Instrumental Music program:

- \$50.00 instrument hire and participation fee is payable for all instrumental music students
- Approximately \$35.00 for a starter kit (instrument tutor book and instrument-specific accessories to begin)

The school will invoice each student once all the required paperwork (participation and commitment contract, loan agreement form etc) has been signed and received. Payment plans can be organised by contacting the school office.

INSTRUMENTS

- Beginning students will be assigned a school instrument by the Instrumental Music Teacher with regard to the student's previous music experience, aptitude, the program needs, availability of instruments and teacher time.
- A loan agreement must be signed by the parents and returned to the school office BEFORE the instrument is issued to the student.
- The loan period on smaller instruments is limited to 12 months with the exception of the Baritone. As it is a more expensive instrument, it can be loaned for the duration of the time the student is at the school.
- Having your own instrument does not guarantee your child a position in the program. Please see Selection of Students for details and discuss with the IM Teacher if you own your own instrument.

CONDITIONS FOR THE LOAN OF AN INSTRUMENT FROM THE SCHOOL

- The instrument is to be used ONLY by the student to whom it is loaned.
- Every care and attention will be given to the instrument during the period of the loan.
- The instrument is returnable at request by the school at any time for inspection, repair and adjustment or for any other reason.
- In the event of accidental loss or damage the circumstances will be immediately reported to the school using the form at the back of this handbook.
- If, in the opinion of the instrumental music teacher, a student is not carrying out due responsibility, is not practicing or committing to the program's requirements, the period of the loan will be ended and the instrument promptly returned.
- The student/parent/carer will be financially responsible for any wilful or negligent damage to the instrument. The school will cover the costs of the general servicing of the instrument.
- It is recommended that school and personal instruments be covered by personal/home and contents insurance.

PURCHASING YOUR OWN INSTRUMENT

Instruments are made available by the school for beginner students to experience the instrument before parents invest in their own.

Students continuing after the first year are required to purchase an instrument (or hire externally). However, there is an exception of the Baritone. As it is a larger, more expensive instrument, it can be re-loaned through the school for the duration of the time the student is at the school.



CLASS RESOURCES & EQUIPMENT

All students will require additional resources and equipment for their lessons and home practice. This includes a music stand for home practice as well as instrument specific accessories such as reeds, valve oil or cork grease. Some of this equipment will need to be replaced as it runs out.

Students will also need to purchase the next level tutor book as they progress.

COMMUNICATION

Timely and clear communication between all parties is an important factor in the success of your child's learning. If there are any circumstances that affect your child's participation and progress in the program, or if you have any queries, please let your IM teacher know.

The IM Teacher will notify parents of any unexplained lesson absence, lack of organisation, poor progress, or an inappropriate attitude towards the program. This is so that the school can work with students and their parents/carers to resolve issues so that your student can move forward successfully.

METHODS OF COMMUNICATION

Email is the best mode of communication. When emailing, please make sure your student's name and school are clearly stated in the subject.

All parents/carers will receive group email updates from their student's IM Teacher throughout the term.

If your email address changes, please let the IM Teacher know directly so that their contacts list can be changed and you will continue to get the relevant information.

STAFF DETAILS & CONTACTS

Leesa Dean

Instrumental Music Teacher

Email: ladea0@eq.edu.au

Instrumental Music Lesson Support

Email: admin@howardss.eq.edu.au

STUDENT WITHDRAWAL

A contract of commitment and participation is signed by all parties at the commencement of the program. The expectation is that all students will continue in the IM program for a minimum of one school year with the intention to continue through to the end of their schooling. Enrolment in the instrumental music programs may be discontinued by the principal if attendance, practice, progress or aptitude are inadequate.

In the event that a student wishes to leave the program during the school year, the parents/guardians must first discuss this with the instrumental music teacher to see if a plan can be put in place to re-engage the student.

Please note that if a student leaves the program during the school year, no refund of IM SRS fees will be given.



SCHOOL INSTRUMENT DAMAGE REPORT

Name of Child in Program: _____ Class: _____

Instrument damaged: _____

Identifying (EQ) number of instrument (if known): _____

Description of Event that caused damage to instrument:
(including date/time of event and any persons involved)

Description of damage that occurred to instrument:

Name of person at (the school) notified: _____

Date & Time Notified: _____ / _____ / _____ & _____

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____

Signed: _____

Contact email: _____ Phone: _____

This form is to be completed is any damage occurs to the instrument on loan from the school. Please attached any other supporting documents, more information and photos if possible.



COMMITMENT AND PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

To be involved in the Instrumental Music Online program, students and parents/carers are asked to agree to the following.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- (a) Students must attend an online Instrumental Music lesson once a week at a predetermined time. They will exit their normal class in order to do this. It is the student's responsibility to catch up on any class work missed during this time.
- (b) Students must bring all equipment (instrument, accessories) to every lesson.
- (c) Students must make every effort to care for their instrument.
- (d) Students must commit to regular practice as directed by the Instrumental Music Teacher.

PARENT/CARER RESPONSIBILITIES

- (a) Parents/Carers are to assist the student in caring for their instrument.
- (b) Parents/Carers are strongly encouraged to assist their child with a practice routine as directed by the Instrumental Music Teacher.
- (d) Parents/Carers are strongly encouraged to communicate directly with the Instrumental Music Teacher if their child is experiencing difficulties or there is a problem with the instrument.
- (e) Parents/Carers must provide the additional equipment (attached list) as required.

Please note that failure to uphold these responsibilities may see the student removed from the program and the instrument returned to the Department of Education.

The expectation is that all students will continue in the program for a minimum of one school year with the intention to continue through to the end of their schooling. In the event that a student wishes to leave the program during the school year, the student's parent/carer must first discuss this with the instrumental music teacher to see if a plan can be put in place to re-engage the student.

I agree to the above

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Carer Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Carer email contact and phone number

Email _____

Phone _____