INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

HANDBOOK
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WHAT IS OFFERED?

Pacific Pines SHS offers a comprehensive Instrumental Music program. Like all Education Queensland schools, PPSHS focuses on two areas:

1. Lessons
2. Ensembles

Lessons: 30 minutes per week, in small groups only, during school time

Please note: ALL STUDENTS WHO UNDERTAKE LESSONS ARE EXPECTED TO BECOME MEMBERS OF AN ENSEMBLE ONCE A COMPETENT LEVEL OF MUSICIANSHIP HAS BEEN ACHIEVED. PERFORMING IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE LEARNING PROCESS.

Ensembles:

Jazz Band – students from Years 7 – 12, learning Brass, Percussion or Woodwind
   Director – Mrs Kim Lawrence
   Rehearsal – Monday, 3.10pm – 4.00pm
   Venue – MU02

String Orchestra – students from Years 7 – 12, learning violin, viola, cello or double bass
   Director – Mr David Sue Yek
   Rehearsal time – Wednesday, 3.10pm – 4.20pm
   Venue – MU02

Concert Band – students from Years 7 – 12, learning Brass, Percussion or Woodwind
   Director – Mr Andrew Denning
   Rehearsal time – Thursday, 3.10pm – 4.15pm
   Venue – MU02

Chamber ensembles – Junior String Quartet and Senior String Quartet - at the Instrumental teacher’s discretion

Vocal Group – students from Years 7 – 12, interested in singing; no audition necessary
   Director – Mrs Kim Lawrence
   Rehearsal – Friday, second break 1.10pm, when there is not a whole school musical
   Venue – MU01
ATTENDANCE AND COMMITMENT

Time is precious in every music lesson so it is therefore necessary for students to attend ALL Instrumental Music lessons.

The lessons operate on a rotating timetable to ensure that students do not miss the same subject each week. Students will be given a copy of their timetable by the second week of the school year, to insert into their school diary. If the student has an exam where they cannot attend their Instrumental Music lesson, we ask that the students let their instructor know prior to the day. Sometimes, it is possible that the student may be able to attend the lesson at a different time that day.

Students who enrol at the start of each year are required to participate for the full duration of the school year. Please see the contract at the back of this booklet.

THE CALENDAR

Throughout the year, students may perform at various events such as:

- School assemblies
- Official functions eg Awards nights, ceremonies
- Community events
- Eisteddfods
- Arts events eg Concerts, workshops

Performance dates are given to the students as soon as possible to maximise notice given. Parents will receive a note from home and an email from the instructor with the details. Please ensure that contact details are up to date.
PRACTICE TIME

“Success = 10% talent + 90% perspiration”

What you will need:
- Instrument
- Music
- Music stand
- Chair with straight back
- Pencil & eraser

Why practise?
- To solve problems
- To improve skills
- To learn new things
- For enjoyment

To achieve a good practice session:
- Work in a quiet, enclosed room
- Try for 5 x 30 minute sessions per week
- Practising more often in short spans of time is better than one big block of practice time
- Practice should include:
  - A warm up – scales/arpeggios
  - Technical work from your workbook
  - Pieces – solo and ensemble
THE COSTS

We have two types of levy at PPSHS:

Levy A – For students with their own instrument (privately owned or hired from an outside school organisation)

$40 annually

Levy B – For students using a school instrument

$100 annually

This money contributes towards the cost of:

- AMCOS photocopying licence
- Photocopying costs
- Maintenance and repairs to school instruments
- Competition entry fees
- Band shirt hired to students
- The school subsidises bus costs to out of school events

Before students take an instrument home, the following items must be submitted:

- Enrolment form
- Instrument Loan agreement form
- Student contract

BAND UNIFORM

Member of the school’s ensembles have a uniform for performances, consisting of:

- Black shirt (provided by the school)
- Black trousers or long length skirt
- Black closed in shoes (not sports shoes)
- Black socks or stockings (as appropriate)

It is the parent’s responsibility to supply the final 3 items for the student.

Returning band shirts:

At the end of the year, after the final performance, shirts are to be returned, washed, to Mrs Lawrence, for stocktaking.
INDIVIDUAL REQUIREMENTS

Your Instrumental Music instructor will advise regarding the book required. However, each student will need to bring items necessary for their instrument (e.g., reeds – size 2 or 2.5, neck strap valve oil, grease, drumsticks, practice pad).

Other items required:

- Display folder
- Pencil and eraser
- Water bottle or spray bottle

WHERE TO SHOP

Strings:

- Animato Strings: www.animato.com.au
- Simply for Strings: www.simplyforstrings.com.au
- Vibrato Strings Ashmore: PH - 55 97 7734

Band:

- Gold Coast Brass and Woodwind: PH - 5561 1773

Note: avoid e-bay purchases
THE ROLE OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS

The success of our Instrumental Music program relies very much on the parents. Your help with the following ensure your student progresses and maintains interest in music.

1. Encourage your student to practise regularly
2. Check your student has all of the correct equipment eg reeds, strings, books, etc
3. Ensure your student attends all rehearsals and performances
4. Be in the audience at our performances where possible
5. Maintain the band uniform

COMMON CONCERNS RAISED BY PARENTS

1. Will my child’s work suffer because of the extra commitment?

   It shouldn’t, as it is every student’s responsibility to **immediately** catch up on worked missed from class while attending the 35 minute Instrumental Music lesson. In addition to this, the instrumental lessons are on a rotating timetable so the same subject is not missed each week.

   Research also indicates that music enhances academic ability.

2. How will participating in the Instrumental program enhance my child’s life?

   By developing:
   - confidence and self-esteem
   - teamwork skills
   - school pride
   - self-discipline and commitment
   - listening skills
   - interpersonal skills

3. What happens if my child wants to quit the program?

   As outlined earlier in this booklet, students are committed to the program for the full 12 months of the year.

   If circumstances make this impossible, an explanatory note signed by a parent/guardian must be brought to school to Mrs Lawrence and the relevant instructor. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that, if a school instrument was used, it is returned immediately, to make it available for other interested students. There will be no refund of fees paid.

   **IMPORTANT!**

   If a school instrument is returned in an unsatisfactory state (ie damaged or missing parts) parents are responsible for repair costs.