Merrimac

State High School

Gold Coast, Australia

Pride in Excellence

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC HANDBOOK

WE ARE AN ACCREDITED SCHOOL

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INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

TEACHERS

Mrs Jemma Losada jplos0@eq.edu.au

- Multi-Instrumental Strings Teacher (Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass) and String Orchestra Conductor
- All day Tuesday

Mr Paul Ugarte pxuga0@eq.edu.au

- Multi-Instrumental Band Teacher (Woodwind, Brass, Percussion) and Ensemble Conductor.
- All day Monday

Miss Deb Body dbody4@eq.edu.au

- Multi-Instrumental Band Teacher (Woodwind, Brass, Percussion)
- Part day Monday

Mrs Cara McLennan cmcle209@eq.edu.au

- Head of Arts Department

ADVANTAGES OF LEARNING A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

- Students will become part of the instrumental music community where they will develop long-lasting ties to the school and make life-long friendships
- Music study allows students to strive to achieve clearly set goals
- Being a member of the Instrumental Music program give students the opportunity to actively participate in the school community and also wider community
- Students will have the opportunity to experience workshops or camps and be able to participate in competitions such as the Gold Coast Eisteddfod.

AIMS

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

- The right of each individual to develop his/her potential
- To develop an understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of music
- To develop a further knowledge of music and develop an appreciation of the discipline required in performance
- The use of workshops to further enhance the development of knowledge and appreciation
- To use music to develop the individual – socially, emotionally and physically.
- Year 11 and 12 Senior music students studying at Instrumental Music levels 7 – 10 will be enrolled to receive a QCE point for each level studied.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC INFORMATION

At Merrimac State High School, we value our Instrumental Music programs and strive to provide enriching opportunities for the music students within the program. As such, it is our aim to provide your child with a solid start and a quality foundation that will encourage and support them to be the best musician they can be. Our expert instructors have compiled information to best help your child achieve success with their chosen instrument. We have two programs:

Band Program offers group tuition in Flute, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone Horn, Euphonium, Bass Guitar, Bass Keyboard, and Percussion.

String Program offers group tuition in Violin, Viola, Cello and Double Bass.

LESSONS

Lessons will begin Week 2 or 3 of Term 1 each year. All students will receive a timetable prior to this.

Your child will attend a thirty-five-minute group lesson each week. Students are expected to come prepared with their instrument/s and required equipment. In the event your child forgets their instrument, it is still important for them to attend. If they are absent, our dedicated staff will appreciate notification in the form of an email.

For beginning students, it is not commonplace for students who have not studied an instrument in primary school to begin learning in secondary school. It is, however, possible and subject to the following conditions:

1. The IM Teacher has a group available to accommodate a new beginner
2. An instrument is available
3. The student and parent can ensure commitment to lesson attendance and practise.

Those students who wish to learn a second instrument are accepted; with condition they have support by their class teachers and parents.

ENSEMBLES

Commencement of Ensembles for 2022 will be advised. All students will receive a timetable.

Your child will rehearse as a member of an ensemble once a week. These rehearsals take place before and after school. In the event your child forgets their instrument, it is still important for them to attend.

REHEARSALS

Concert Band	Mondays 3.00pm - 4pm (Mr Ugarte)
Stage Band	Mondays Morning Tea (Mr Ugarte)
String Orchestra	Tuesday 7:45am-8:40am (Mrs Losada)

Attendance at all rehearsals is compulsory and is the responsibility of the student. If students have other after school commitments, they can leave early. However, this needs to be confirmed with students and parents.

The aim of a rehearsal is to develop the musical skills of every individual to their full potential, ensuring a confident, expressive and sensitive ensemble sound. The amount of learning that occurs during rehearsals is directly related to the quality of input by each student. Students are asked to be prepared, listen and learn, respect others, be positive and most importantly ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE OF LEARNING A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT.

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TERMINATION OF LESSONS

The instrumental teacher, in conjunction with the Head of Department of The Arts, and the music teacher may exclude children from tuition if:

- They do not progress through lack of practice, attendance or aptitude
- They do not attend band/ensemble rehearsals and performances.
- They do not take care of the instrument on loan by the school

LESSON AND REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE POLICY

In addition to the policy below, all students will also receive a term overview of what music is being learnt and all assessments required.

Before attending their timetable lessons, students are to present to the Hub to collect an 'Instrumental Music' pass. After their lesson, they must go back to the Hub to collect a 'back to class' pass. Any students failing to follow this process and return to class without a pass or late, will result in further consequences from the Head of Department.

- **Un- Explained Absence**

1. First Lesson: Missed when present at school but did not attend lesson: email home. HOD of The Arts in the email. Record Contact on One School.
2. Second Lesson: Missed when present at school, but did not attend: Phone home, record contact on One School and refer contact to HOD of The Arts.
3. Third Lesson: Missed when present at school but did not attend: Inform HOD through email, and HOD will contact home.
4. Fourth Lesson: Missed when present at school but did not attend: Meeting with HOD about place in the Instrumental Music program.

- **Explained Absence**

1. First three explained missed lessons and informed teacher previously are allowed
2. Fourth missed lesson explained: email home HOD of The Arts. Record on One School
3. Fifth missed explained lesson: HOD of The Arts Contact home and speak with Student.

TIMETABLE

Our instrumental teachers will provide timetables for lessons and ensembles at the beginning of the term. These will be displayed on the music room windows as well as in the J block corkboard in the main corridor. A copy will be given and emailed to each student and the staff at Merrimac High. Timetables will be rotating so that students do not miss the same lesson each week.

INSTRUMENTS

We advise leaving instruments in the school music storeroom. This, in our experience, prevents loss and damage. Children bring their instrument/s to the music room in the morning and collect them in the afternoon.

HOME PLAYING

Start with 10-15 minutes and increase steadily to a half hour as the student's ability increases. A suitable space for practise as well as a regular practise routine will allow for the best outcomes. Practising at the same time every day is good, but some flexibility should be built into this schedule. A little bit of careful practise is better than none at all.

LOANING INSTRUMENTS FROM SCHOOL

Our school has limited instruments for hire as when students attend high school it is aimed that students have their own instrument. If you are hoping to use a school instrument, please do not hesitate to contact your student's Instrumental Music Teacher. *Please note, there will be a fee of $100 to hire an instrument.*

CONDITIONS FOR LOANING

1. The instrument is to be used by the student to whom it is loaned and by no other person unless authorised by the IM teacher.
2. All care and attention will be given to the instrument during the period of the loan.
3. The instrument is returnable upon demand at any time for inspection, repair and adjustment or for any other reason.
4. The instrument will be promptly returned for any repair or adjustment which may be required through normal use.
5. In the event of accidental loss or damage, the circumstances will be immediately reported to the school.
6. If, in the opinion of the teacher of the instrument, a student is not carrying out reasonable practise or shows little ability with the instrument, the period of loan will be terminated, and the instrument returned promptly.
7. The loan may be terminated if the student does not observe the school's rehearsal attendance policy.
8. If the instrument is damaged through the negligence of the student, they are required to pay for the repairs.

STUDENTS ROLE

- Attend lessons and ensembles
- Assist in setting up and packing up ensemble equipment
- Play their instrument
- Punctual attendance at all lessons with required equipment
- Attend performances, inside and outside of school, in correct performance uniform
- Give notes and any instructor correspondence to parents/caregivers
- Understand that participation in the instrumental program is a one-year commitment.

PARENTS' ROLE

- Encourage your child to play their instrument at a regular time and in a place that causes a minimum of disruption to the household
- Support your child by attending performances and functions
- Initially, assist your child to remember equipment, lesson times and ensemble rehearsals
- Demonstrate interest in your child's progress
- Communicate any issues with instructors/music staff as they arise.

COMMUNICATION

Our instrumental instructors often teach at a variety of schools. Communication with our music staff during the year can be made via email, letter, phone call or an appointment may be made. Please do not hesitate to contact the instrumental staff regarding any concerns that you may have.

TEXTBOOKS AND ACCESSORIES

All students are encouraged to bring a USB and pencil to every lesson.

BAND TEXTBOOKS

Year 7 students – the IM teachers would like to assess where students are at and which tutor book they have previously used before recommending a set Tutor Book. Students will either use Sound Innovations Book 1 or Book 2.

Students in other grades will be doing chamber music, will be part of small ensemble groups and AMEB repertoire in lessons. Students will be notified if they are required to purchase a set text.

STRING TEXTBOOK

The IM teachers would like to assess where students are at and which tutor book they have previously used before recommending a set Tutor Book. It is aimed that all students will be using String Basics Book 2 and 3.

UNIFORMS

Merrimac State High is proud to have a School Band uniform. Each ensemble member is required to have the full Band Uniform. **Please collect the below uniform loan form from your IM teacher and return to the Uniform Shop** by no later than Week 5, Term 1. The Uniform Shop is open on Tuesday 8am – 12.30pm and Thursday 8.30am – 2pm.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ALL STUDENTS COMPLETE A NEW FORM and return it to the Uniform Shop each year.

The full Band Uniform consists of the school band shirt and tie (available from the Uniform Shop), long black dress pants, black shoes and black socks.

Band Uniform must be washed and returned to the Uniform Shop one week after Awards Night. This is compulsory.

FUNDING

As of 2024, there will be an annual fee to be a part of the program ($65) which contributes to students' method books, sheet music, instrument repairs and eisteddfod entries. An additional fee of $100 will be charged for students hiring an instrument.

PERFORMANCES:

Our ensembles participate in a variety of events and competitions during the school year. Notes will be sent home notifying you of upcoming performances.

During school and public performance, every student must act as an ambassador of the school. At all times the students are to 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.

It is vital to have all students participate in every performance to allow the ensemble to perform at its best.

If you require additional information regarding our School Instrumental Music Policy please email us directly or phone administration and your call will be directed to the Music room.

The following forms are to be completed and returned to your Instrumental Music teacher as soon as possible.
• **Instrumental Music Contract** – To be completed by all students
• **Music Uniform Conditions of Use**. All students to complete and return to the Uniform Shop by no later than Week Five Term One.
• **Instrumental Music Hire Scheme Agreement Form** for all allocated School Instruments • Loan Scheme for Instrument

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC CONTRACT

Merrimac State High School
Gold Coast, Australia

Name: _____ **Class:** _____

School ID: _____ **Parent Email Address:** _____

Home Address: _____

Phone Numbers: _____

INSTRUMENT DETAILS

Type of Instrument 1: _____ **Brand:** _____ **Own or Hire (Please Circle)**

Type of Instrument 2: _____ **Brand:** _____ **Own or Hire (Please Circle)**

A. PARENTAL COMMITMENT

1. Encourage the student to be punctual for lessons and rehearsals.
2. Assist in transport required and arranging performance uniforms for the students should the need arise.
3. Attend as many performances as possible to help support students and the Instrumental Music Program

B. STUDENT COMMITMENT

I WILL:

- Attend instrumental music lessons and band/ensemble rehearsals promptly.
- Attend all performances unless reasonable notice of extenuating circumstances is given in writing to the music staff organising the performance.
- Wear the required uniform correctly and with pride.
- Be an enthusiastic, supportive and positive team member.
- Undertake regular practice each week.
- Represent the school in a mature and professional manner.

I HAVE READ THE TERMS ABOVE AND AGREE AND ABIDE BY THEM

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Merrimac
State High School
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MUSIC UNIFORM CONDITIONS OF USE

- This uniform is allocated to you for the allocated school year and remains the property of Merrimac State High School.
- It is your responsibility to ensure it is kept in excellent condition.
- Each uniform has its own unique number and will be allocated to your account in the Libcode system.
- The uniform must be returned to the Resource room BEFORE you finish school at the end of the year in a clean condition to enable on going use.
- If at the end of the year the uniform requires repairs or dry cleaning this will be at your expense.
- If the uniform needs to be replaced the cost will be $80.

I agree to the above terms:

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME……

SIGNED……

DATE……

CONTACT NUMBER……

STUDENT NAME……

SIGNED……

DATE……

UNIFORM NUMBER & SIZE……

OFFICE USE ONLY
Uniform returned:
Date:
Condition:
Signed: