



The Junction Public School

Instrumental Program

Band Information Guide





Welcome to The Junction Public School Instrumental Program

We are very proud of our Instrumental Program and its' reputation for excellence in the Newcastle region.

The Junction Public School's Band Coordinator is Ms Angie King, ES1 AP.

The school has 3 concert bands, a Primary Band, Concert Band and Premier Band, all conducted by Mr Michael Bell & Dr Ian Cook.

The String Ensemble is directed by Mrs Julie Bevan and Ms Helen Griffith.

The Percussion Ensemble comprises percussionists from the three bands and is conducted by Mr David Tracy.

All of these staff are tertiary qualified and well respected in the music community.



MUSIC TUTORS

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Michael Bell Conductor | Trumpet & Lower Brass | 0412 564 954 |
| David Tracy | Percussion | 0400 459 979 |
| Elise Kearney | Flute | 0403 620 106 |
| Clare Gibbons | Clarinet | 0418 674 032 |
| Ian (Zac) Isaacs | Bass Guitar | 0416 126 201 |
| Nick Jamieson | Clarinet | 0428 890 261 |
| Andrew Hermon | Clarinet | 0409 232 094 |
| Paul Isaacs | Saxophone | 0425 835 205 |
| Julie Bevan Conductor | Violin | |
| Helen Griffith | Cello | |
| Melanie Coombes | Piano/ Keyboard | |
| Amanda Wiley | Violin | |
| Rodney Wickstrom | Violin | |

We are very fortunate at The Junction to have a group of highly qualified musical experts tutoring our students. Each student will be given the name of his/her tutor. Parents then contact the tutor to arrange a suitable time for the individual tutorial at school.

The tutor will give a time, length of the lesson and fee for the lesson. Lesson fees are to be paid directly to the tutor. Lessons are weekly and students and parents should contact their tutor if their child will be absent from the tutorial due to illness, school excursions or other activity. Please note that except in the case of sudden illness, 24 hrs notice must be given otherwise lesson fees will be payable for the missed lesson. Our tutors time is valuable and advanced notice is important for reorganisation of lesson schedules.

We rely on parents to encourage their children to **practise their instrument daily** as this is a great way to ensure progress and a sense of achievement.



What the Instrumental program offers your child

- Fun and excitement
- New friendships
- A quality educational experience
- Improved confidence and self-esteem
- Improved self-discipline and teamwork
- Improved sense of creativity and culture
- Use of a quality musical instrument at little cost
- Quality lessons by qualified tutors at the school

What we expect from your child

- A positive attitude and desire to learn and do their best
- Commitment to home practice
- Dedication to attendance at rehearsals and performances
- Respect for the Musical director and staff
- Respect for Band property, equipment, instruments and music folders
- Adherence to band rules

What we need from parents

- A commitment to the band program and recognition that each child is an integral member of the band
- Organise private tutorials for your child with designated instrument tutor
- Contact the tutor at least 24 hrs in advance if your child will be absent from tutorials
- Guide and encourage your child when “the going gets tough”
- Support the conductor
- Keep informed by checking for information notes sent home
- Pay fees promptly
- Contact the instrumental coordinator or conductor with any questions or issues
- Give notice of inability to attend rehearsals performances



| MEMBERSHIP

Any Junction Public School student in Years 3-6 is eligible to join an ensemble. No prior musical experience is necessary. All students will receive private music tuition at the school and are required to prioritise attendance at rehearsals and all performances.

| INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAMME FEES

Fees cover the band's general expenses including: conductors' fees, purchase of new music, purchase of new instruments, purchase of resources required for ensembles, instrument repair and maintenance, folder costs, Pizza days, Contest entry fees etc. The Instrumental Program fee is to be paid by week 3 of each term or annually. Fees are to be paid at the school office by cash, cheque, credit card or through the online portal.

Hiring and using the school's instrument: \$120 per term; \$480 per year.

Using your own instrument: \$100 per term; \$400 per year.

| ALLOCATION OF INSTRUMENTS

Students are asked to indicate three instrument preferences in order from most desirable. However, instrument allocation is totally at the discretion of the teacher. Factors of consideration are: preferences, instrument availability, needs of ensemble for a balanced sound, student's physical size, rhythmic ability and individual mouthpiece suitability.





| INSTRUMENT HIRE AGREEMENT

If you choose to hire an instrument from the school, you will be asked to complete an instrument hire agreement. This is to ensure all parties are aware of, and agree to their responsibilities. The hire agreement states:

- The Band Program will provide a high quality instrument in good working order.
- Damage sustained during reasonable use will be repaired at the cost of the Band Program.
- The Band Program will provide a replacement, if one is available, while the instrument is being repaired.
- Damage sustained due to negligent use will be repaired at the cost of the hirer (parent/carer).
- In the case of loss or theft while in the care of the hirer, the hirer will be responsible for replacement costs of that instrument.

Each instrument is valuable and expensive to replace. The cost ranges from **\$800 to \$4,000**. We strongly recommend that instruments are included in household and car insurances. We can give you the replacement cost for your policy.

| CARE OF INSTRUMENTS

It is expected that all students treat their instruments with the utmost care and respect. Each instrument has its own special needs. Private tutors will assist with instructions on care and cleaning which needs to be done **following each use**. All students will need to supply cleaning cloths and "pull throughs" (flutes, clarinets, saxophones).

Clarinets and Saxophones: Students will need to supply reeds and cork grease for their instruments - available at music shops.

Brass Instruments: Students will need to supply valve oil, slide lubricant and tuning slide grease.

String Instruments: Students will need to supply Rosin and cleaning cloth.

N.B. String instruments should never be exposed to heat or direct sunlight.

NO INSTRUMENT SHOULD EVER BE IN A CLOSED CAR IN THE SUN AS THE CASE WILL WARP

| REPAIRS

From time to time instruments need repair for various reasons. Instruments in need of repair are to be reported initially, to the tutor then to the school instrumental coordinator, if they need to go to our repairer, Mr Bell will take them.

It is important for all students and families to understand what is involved in caring for the instrument you are given. Tutors are in a position to assist and direct you to relevant online information.

| CARE OF INSTRUMENTS WHILE AT SCHOOL

On days when students bring their band instruments to school they **MUST LEAVE THEM IN CLASSROOMS OR THE BAND ROOM** until they are needed. Instruments are **NOT** to be left outside classrooms. String instruments are never to be left in direct sunlight or any situation exposed to heat.



| **BAND/ENSEMBLE UNIFORM**

The band uniform is the compulsory mode of dress for all performances.

It consists of: **Band T-Shirt** (available at the uniform shop)

Black trousers (available at the uniform shop)

Black leather shoes and black socks

| **MUSIC AND FOLDERS**

Suitable music for our 3 bands is purchased by the school at the recommendations from the conductors. This provides students with enjoyable, challenging and quality repertoire.

| **CONCERT AND PREMIER BAND**

All Concert Band and Premier Band musicians are eligible to purchase one of the school's high quality music folders. These folders are embossed with the school logo and are of an extremely high quality. With proper care, they will last through the student's entire time in our bands.

The folders are available for purchase from the school. The first folder each student purchases will be subsidised by the school and will cost the student **\$15.**

Any replacement folders purchased afterwards will cost the full price of \$28.

Any student not wishing to purchase one of the embossed folders will receive **one** red plastic folder at the beginning of each year. All music will be copied and distributed throughout the year. Students should practise these pieces and bring the folder to all tutorials and rehearsals.

| **PRIMARY BAND**

Primary Band members receive a red folder on joining the band containing suitable exercises and pieces to practise at home and with their tutors. This folder must be brought to all tutorials and rehearsals.



| ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS METHOD BOOK

In 2019 Primary Band will be using the Essential Elements for Band method book. This book will be provided at no cost to new musicians and is to be kept by students after their time in Primary Band.

This method is progressive and has an interactive online component to provide further information and engagement for students and families. The program offers many online resources. Initially we will make use of the Music Studio, Resources.

| PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

The percussionists from Concert and Premier bands are eligible to be in the Percussion Ensemble which rehearses with Mr David Tracy each Friday from 1:00-2:00pm. **Primary Band percussionists join after Term 1.**

| JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Jazz Ensemble is led by Mr Paul Isaacs and rehearses fortnightly during Term 3 and 4.



REHEARSALS

| | M | T | W | Th | F |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Morning 8am | String Ensemble | Premier Band | Concert Band | | Primary Band |
| Lunch | | | | Jazz Band Mr Isaacs Term 3 & 4 fortnightly | Percussion Ensemble Mr Tracy |
| Afternoon 2pm | | Primary Band | | Premier Band | Concert Band |

Our Current 2018 Timetable

Please Note that Band rehearsals in 2019 will move out of school hours. At this point we are looking at 5 morning sessions and one after school session most likely to occur on a Wednesday but until I can allocate conductors, I am unable to indicate which days particular bands will be.

Band, Jazz and Percussion Ensemble rehearsals take place in the Music Room. It is important that ensemble members are punctual at all rehearsals and sit quietly, ready to listen to the conductor's instructions. It is very disruptive when students arrive late. It is suggested that all children arrive 10 minutes early to allow time for instrument set up and organisation so that full rehearsal can begin at 8am. If your child is unable to attend a rehearsal for any reason, the allocated conductor must be informed via text message or email. See contact list.



| BAND DAYS

Each band has 2 Band Days per year to allow for concentrated rehearsal for special events. Pizzas are provided for lunch. Band days usually commence at 9:30 am and conclude at 3:00pm. A short concert is held from 2:40-3:00 pm to showcase the day's achievements.

| SAMPLE PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

An essential and the most enjoyable part of music, is the performances.

These have included

Grandparents Day: in Term 2 (Premier Band) - at school.

Family Band Night – Term 2: All bands and ensembles perform in the evening at school in the new hall for parents and friends.

BandLink: A two-day band workshop hosted by the Department of Education. This event provides invaluable practice, Liaison with other school musicians, exposure to visiting conductors and introduction to new music.

Spring Winds Concert: Usually in week 9 of Term 3 (September) on a Friday evening. All Bands and String Ensemble perform along with the Conservatorium Junior and Senior Concert Bands at the Newcastle Conservatorium of Music.

Bandfest: Our local competition held early in Term 4 at the Lake Macquarie Performing Arts Centre.

Presentation Day: Premier Band performs at the whole school Presentation Day.

Band Presentation Night: Held at The Newcastle Conservatorium of Music in November/December and the culmination of our year.

Notification of any performances will be sent home as they occur.

Please check your child's music folder regularly for information notes, permission notes etc. We know from past experience that notes haven't reached home and as a result parents have not been informed of coming events.

