



Year 7 Band Program

Information Booklet



ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE
BALLARAT

Welcome to the Year 7 Concert Band Program at St Patrick's College, Ballarat.

In Year 7 all students are given the opportunity to learn a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument in a band setting. This gives our boys practical instrumental skills whilst learning the value of playing in an ensemble, following a conductor and reading from a common score. Learning an instrument has been shown to enhance a student's academic ability, physical and social skills, discipline and patience.

a. Overview

The Year 7 Concert Band Program is an exciting and practical way of learning about music. Lessons take place as a regular part of the academic program during classroom music.

Students are expected to complete home practice every week – this is an important part of musical skill acquisition. Parents are vital to skill development. They are asked to support the program by providing students with encouragement and a quiet area to practice.



**“Musical children
are not born -
they are raised”**

Dr. Robert Cutietta

*Cutieta, R. (2001). Rising Musical Kids: A guide
for parents. USA: Oxford University Press.*



b. Music Classroom Overview

All lessons occur during classroom music. Year 7 classes are allocated three practical lessons and one theory lesson per cycle. Students have access to specialist staff during one band session a fortnight to gain further practical skill knowledge. The class band rehearses for the remaining sessions.

Two Week Cycle



For the safety of the instrument and to alleviate storage problems, instruments should only be brought to school on practical lesson days. The instrument is to be stored in the music storeroom, located beside the band room, and taken home that afternoon for practice during the week.

c. Band Karate

See attached leaflet for assessment details.



d. Optional Private Lessons

Students may attend additional private individual lessons at school with our instrumental music teachers. The weekly 30 minute lessons are not compulsory and are offered at school for an additional cost. The cost:

- 30 minute individual lessons \$36 per lesson

Please note that the cost of lessons will be added to your tuition fee.

All private lessons held during school are on a rotating schedule and timetables are emailed at the beginning of the term by individual music teachers. Parents are encouraged to maintain regular contact with the instrumental teacher.

See attached form - Private Instrumental Lesson Application

e. Optional 'Rising Stars Concert Band'

The Rising Stars Concert Band consists of students who wish to experience music within a larger like-minded group, who want to excel, and, most importantly, challenge themselves. The ensemble will form at the beginning of Term 2 and will continue for the remainder of the year.

The Rising Stars Concert Band will perform at various times throughout the year;

- Royal South Street • Music Day Tour
- School events • Community occasions
eg. Ballarat Show

Rehearsals: Wednesday Band room 3:30 – 4:30pm

OR Thursday Band room 3:30 – 4:30pm

In the event a student does not wish to fulfill the commitment, their parent or guardian must contact the Head of Music by phone or email at the end of the term.

Encouraging your child to finish something they started teaches them a valuable lesson that they carry throughout their lives!

A Parent/Student information evening will be held in Term 1.



f. Selection of Instruments

Instrumental selection will be negotiated between student and teachers and will also involve completing a Selmer test. Students learn best when they have a keen interest in an instrument and every effort is made to provide them with their first preference. It is important that each instrument selection has a set number of members per band in order to maintain appropriate band colour and balance.

Each concert band class is comprised of the following instruments and students are to make their choices from:

- Flute (approximately 3 players)
- Clarinet (approximately 4 players)
- Alto saxophone (approximately 4 players)
- Tenor saxophone (approximately 3 players)
- Trumpet (approximately 4 players)
- Trombone/Euphonium (approximately 3 players)
- Bass guitar/Tuba (1 player)
- Percussion (approximately 2 players)

For students who currently learn an instrument – French horn, oboe and bassoon are an option.

**To hear a sample of each instrument visit:
The music page on the College website
www.stpats.vic.edu.au**

g. Students who already own an instrument

For those students who already learn an instrument, the Year 7 Band Program offers them the opportunity to learn a new instrument.

Choosing a different instrument can be a lot of fun and reinforces skills and concepts already learned.

h. Parent Commitment

Bringing home an instrument to practice can provide other family members with great opportunities to share in the learning process. Playing along on another instrument, providing positive feedback or simply listening with enjoyment are all great ways to positively reinforce your child's new skills.

Parents are asked to support the program by providing:

- Encouragement to practice a minimum of 5 minutes per day;
- A quiet area in which to practice, preferably with a music stand;
- A safe place to keep the instrument; and
- Regular contact with the class teacher regarding the student's progress (*either by phone, email or practice diary*).



i. Student Commitment

Students are expected to make the most of their time in the Concert Band program by:

- Practicing regularly; short regular practice sessions are more beneficial. Usually 5 minutes per day is recommended for the beginner instrumentalist.
- Ensuring they arrive fully prepared and equipped.
- Caring for their instrument by using the correct equipment and techniques. (*Essential Elements Interactive contains a short clip for each instrument and the teacher will also demonstrate*).
- Ensuring any damage to the instrument is reported to the school immediately.
- Participation in all tuition and classroom activities with enthusiasm.

Performances

- Year 7 Performance Evening – Term 2
- Junior Presentation Night - Term 4

Additional instrumental lesson assistance is offered at lunchtime to support the students' learning.

j. Equipment Requirements

In order for your child to participate and gain the maximum benefits of the Year 7 Band Program, they will need the following materials and equipment.

Equipment provided by the School:

- Flute: cleaning cloth
 - Clarinet: cork grease and cleaning cloth
 - Saxophone: cork grease and cleaning cloth
 - Tenor Saxophone: trolley
 - Trumpet: valve oil and cleaning cloth
 - Trombone: small spray bottle, slide cream and cleaning cloth
 - Euphonium: valve oil, cleaning cloth and trolley
 - Tuba: valve oil and cleaning cloth
- NB Students learning Tuba will have access to an instrument at school and home, therefore will only need to bring the mouthpiece to and from school*
- Electric Bass Guitar: lead and practice amp
 - Percussion: percussion kit, drum sticks and mallets

For advice or further assistance please contact your son's class teacher.



k. Loan Agreement Information

The duration of the Year 7 Band Program is four terms.

The instrument loan is subject to the following conditions:

- All instruments supplied by St Patrick's College remain the property of the College and must be returned to the School when the student leaves the program.
- The instrument is to be returned any time upon request, for inspection, repair and adjustment or for any other reason.
- The instrument is to be used by the student to whom it is loaned and by no other person.
- Every care and attention must be given to the instrument during the period of the loan. In the event of loss or damage, the matter must be reported to the School immediately.
- Parents/guardians will be responsible for the safekeeping of the instrument allocated to their son. Therefore, parents/guardians will be solely responsible for deliberate damage or replacement of lost instruments.

Please check with your own insurers as these risks may be able to be minimised through existing personal Home and Contents Insurance.

• To ensure that you are correctly covered the cost for new instruments are listed below.

- Flute replacement – Yamaha \$1,000
- Clarinet replacement – Yamaha \$1,000
- Alto saxophone replacement – Yamaha \$1,800
- Tenor saxophone replacement – Yamaha \$2,100
- Trumpet replacement – Yamaha \$1,000
- Trombone replacement – Yamaha \$1,200
- Euphonium replacement – Yamaha \$4,000
- Tuba replacement – Yamaha \$10,000
- Bass guitar replacement – Yamaha \$800
- Percussion Kit replacement – Yamaha \$1,000
- French horn replacement – Yamaha \$6,000
- Oboe replacement – Yamaha \$4,000
- Bassoon replacement – Yamaha \$15,000





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