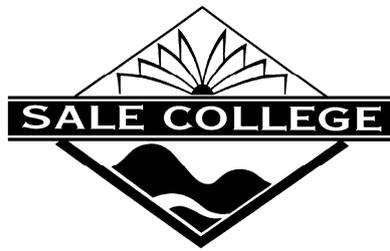


**WELCOM
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**MUSIC
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INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

SALE COLLEGE MUSIC PROGRAM



GENERAL INFORMATION

The music program has a high reputation at Sale College, providing a wonderful opportunity for students to be involved in making music at all levels. Apart from the excellence of the music itself, students work together with other students from all year levels in a close knit social group.

Learning an instrument not only gives students an opportunity for developing their creativity, but also encourages discipline and improved concentration and study skills.

Students can be involved in several ensembles over the years, the principal ones being Senior Concert Band and Big Band. There are also several small ensembles.

Beginner students play in the Junior Concert Band, which rehearses at lunchtimes and is preparation for going into the intermediate and senior bands. Students who have been learning before may be eligible to join Junior Stage Band which rehearses one lunchtime per week, or the Intermediate or Senior Concert Bands, which rehearse one night a week after school.

INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

Instrumental lessons are held in school time, on a rotation basis, so that students do not miss the same lesson each week. Instrumental Music is a school subject and

parents will receive a report at the end of each semester. There are strict guidelines in terms of attendance and achievement. **Students must attend all lessons and band rehearsals, and must bring a note from home if they have to miss a lesson for any reason** (a note in the school diary is fine). Attendance at lessons is essential in order to make progress on an instrument, and students depend on each other to be there at ensemble rehearsals.

If you know in advance that your child will not be at school, for example if they are sick, it would be appreciated if you would ring the school and **leave a message for the instrumental teacher, or the coordinators (Claire Cochrane and Sallyanne Barclay)**.

If there is an excursion or a test in lesson time, it is the student's responsibility to see their music teacher in advance to find out if it is possible to change lesson times.

PLAYING AT HOME

Students cannot make progress on an instrument if they do not play their instruments at home between lessons. During the first year, all that is required is a minimum of 15 minutes per day, every day. Regular playing in short amounts achieves better results than one or two sessions per week. If students do not play regularly, they tend to get behind the others in the group and often lose interest in the instrument altogether. **As parents, you have invested in your child's musical future with instruments and music fees, so please encourage your child to play at home.**

This is an excerpt from an article in a recent issue of 'Parent & Teacher' magazine (Feb.1999).

Research has found that active parental involvement in the first three months after a child begins music lessons is crucial to the child's success in learning to play a musical instrument. The research shows this has a profound impact on long-term participation and persistence by the child.

"We are finding that children whose parents are involved and supportive early on are at least twice as likely to continue learning over the long term as children whose parents are not." Said Dr. Gary McPherson, a senior lecturer [in music education].

But Dr. McPherson is quick to emphasise that the involvement should be supportive and encouraging, not pushy. Parents need to create a "caring and supportive environment" - being interested and occasionally listening to the child practise, discussing his or her progress, requesting favourite pieces to be played and generally making the child feel that he or she is in some way 'special' as new skills are acquired.



BAND UNIFORM

Band uniform consists of black trousers (not black jeans) or long black skirts with black socks or stockings and polished black shoes and white long or $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeves. This uniform is worn at every concert or performance, including Junior Concert Band.

MUSIC SUPPORT GROUP

Meetings are held once each term and are very short, usually lasting about an hour. They are very informal, and are designed to give parents a say in the running of the program and an opportunity to help the program by being involved in various fundraising ventures and the organising of events.

Involvement does not have to take a lot of time, your ideas are helpful to us as well as your participation. Meetings offer a good opportunity to talk about your child's musical progress, discuss any concerns you might have and to meet other parents. Without the Music Support Group, the music program would not exist, as we receive very little funding from the school. Music fees alone are not sufficient to give our students the quality of music education that they deserve.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC FEES

Fees are due at the start of each year. The fees are \$100 for year 7 students, \$150 for years 8 to 12 and \$200 per family. Fees may be paid in installments by arrangement with the front office.

Fees for the music program are necessary as the small amount of funding the program receives from the school would not provide all the resources we need. However, no student is prevented from taking parting the music program because of financial difficulty. There are bursaries available for students who show interest, so contact Claire Cochrane to discuss this further.

Without parents' support in paying music fees, the music program just would not happen, so I would like to thank those parents who have paid, and request the others to do so, as soon as possible please, so that we can plan our budget for the year. Fees can be paid at the front office.

REQUIREMENTS

Each music students is required to have their own instrument. While purchase of instruments is encouraged, it is often sensible to hire at first, to make sure the student has the right instrument, and is keen enough to continue playing. Instruments can be hired through several reputable companies, all of which have different prices and conditions. There are a few instruments available for hire through the school, but only in cases of financial difficulty. In cases of extreme hardship, school instruments may be loaned to students. The school also hires out a few of the large instruments, which are too expensive for the average family. School instruments are only available for as long as the student is keeping up their practice and their commitment to the music program. Instruments can be bought second hand, but **please contact music staff before buying one**, as it is possible to waste a lot of money on instruments that are not good enough.

Students are required to buy a tutor book in the first year of learning, and will need to buy some sheet music and a theory book, especially if they go on to do exams. Music students also do research projects each semester, which gives them a broad general knowledge of music and of their instrument.

BANDS AND ENSEMBLES

In the beginner ensembles, as in the more advanced bands, students will develop the instrumental skills they are being taught in their lessons. They will also learn to play together, watch the conductor/director at the same time as reading music, learn to play in time and in tune, and will develop their listening skills. They will also have fun in a social environment.

All beginning wind and percussion students are required to be a member of the Junior Concert Band. The band is for beginner students only, so no previous experience is necessary. Rehearsals are one lunchtime per week.

Once students have made the commitment to begin lessons and join the bands, they are required to honour that commitment. Again, they must attend all rehearsals, and bring a note from home in the case of unavoidable absence. If students forget to bring their instruments to school, they must still attend the rehearsal. In the unlikely event of students getting lunchtime detentions, they should come to see me in advance.

All of the bands will give at least two performances during the year, usually at the end of semester School Concerts. Performances cannot be polished if students are absent from rehearsals, and it is of course absolutely essential that all students are present for performances.

INSTRUMENTAL STAFF

We have a team of teachers at Sale College:

Claire Cochrane	Instrumental Music coordinator, Woodwind teacher (flute, clarinet, saxophone) Director of Woodwind Ensembles and Junior Stage Band
Sallyanne Barclay	Music Coordinator, Classroom music, Woodwind teacher.
Brett Glover	General instrumental teacher, Director of Junior Concert Band and Big Band.
Anthony Rickard	Guitar teacher, director of Guitar Ensemble
James Woodhouse	Brass teacher
Jenny Schultz	Keyboard and vocal teacher (private)



NOTICES

Communication during the year between the music department and parents is usually by way of newsletter or notices. These are handed out to students at band rehearsals, and it is the student's responsibility to hand them to you. Sometimes there is a tear off slip which needs to be returned. The newsletter will be available on the school web site – there is at least one per term.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC ENROLMENT FORM 2009

Please tear off and fill in the following form and return to the front office or to Claire Cochrane as soon as possible. (please keep the booklet for your information)

1. Parent/Guardian's preferred contact:

Mr, Mrs, Ms, Mr and Mrs (delete those not applicable)
Name/s.....
Contact phone number/s
Address

2. MUSIC SUPPORT GROUP

I am interested in becoming a member of the Music Support Group
and am willing to attend meetings once per term. *or*
I cannot attend meetings, but am willing to help with fundraising
events where possible, and for my phone number to be available to the Music
Support Group. Ph.no.

3. MUSIC PROGRAM FEES

I have already paid my music fees *or*
I will be paying my music fees in full
by the end of first term *or*
I will pay my music fees in instalments,
with at least half paid by the end of first term *or*
I request an interview with the Music Coordinator
to discuss a bursary, or have already done so.

4. SPECIAL CONSENT (please tick each box)

I give permission for my child to be driven between school campuses or between
school and performance venues by a teacher or other music parent at any time during
the year.
I give permission for my child's photograph to be used in school associated
activities/organisations for publicity purposes.
I understand that as a music student, my child will on occasions be allowed to
study/rehearse/practice in one of the music classrooms without direct teacher
supervision.
If not, I can be contacted at any time on

5. STUDENT CONTRACT

I understand that as a Sale College Music Student, I am to attend all lessons,
rehearsals and performances. If I have any absolutely unavoidable absences I will
make sure the teacher knows. I will also look after my instrument and practice
regularly at home.
Student's signature
Student's name
form mobile phone number

6. Parent/Guardian's Signature.

I have read the information booklet and this form, and accept all of the above conditions for my child to learn an instrument.

(please sign)