

Mount Isa and District
Instrumental Program
Information Pages



Welcome:

Welcome to all students and families. 2010 promises to be a very exciting year for all instrumental music in Mount Isa and full of opportunity for those who seek to achieve with their chosen instrument.

This information booklet has been designed to assist parents/caregivers and students in making the decision to become part of the Instrumental Music Program and how the program operates at school

We encourage all parents/caregivers and students to read though this booklet. Please contact us through the school office if you need help or clarification of information.

We are looking forward to teaching your child the joys of music making.

Yours sincerely

Susanne Pattison
Instrumental Music Teacher
(Woodwind/Brass/Percussion)

Yvonne Moore
Instrumental Music Teacher
(Strings)

Instrumental Lessons

The Mount Isa Instrumental Music Program allows students to undertake tuition in the following areas:

Strings-	Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass
Woodwind-	Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Flute, Piccolo, Oboe Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Bassoon.
Brass-	Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, French Horn, Tuba
Percussion	Drums, Bells, Xylophone, Shakers etc...

Lesson Policy- How lessons fit into normal schooling

Primary Schools: At the beginning of the year students will be placed into a group depending on their level of ability. Lesson timetables will be issued to students and class teachers. Throughout the year there may be a need to change times occasionally due to public holidays etc. Students may also be placed into different groups depending on their rate of progress. Each week students will miss 30 minutes of regular classes and come to the instrumental room for their lesson.

Secondary Schools: At the beginning of the year students will be placed on a lesson roster system for their particular instrument. Lesson timetables will be issued individually to students, as well as being displayed in the music room. Students are asked to check the timetables regularly so that they remember to attend their lessons as scheduled. Each week students will miss 35 minutes of their regular classes and come to the music room for their lesson. For example, if in week 1 their instrumental music lesson is on Tuesday at 9.00am, the following week it may be at 9.35 am etc. This will continue until the rotation is complete, it will then recommence the cycle.

Can I learn two instruments?

Students who wish to learn more than one instrument may do so after due consultation with parents/caregivers, class teachers, instrumental teachers and with the principal's approval. The opportunity to learn more than one instrument is reserved for interested students who show outstanding commitment and dedication to their school and music studies.

Attendance

Students attend lessons on a weekly basis. Class teachers are aware of the importance and value of the instrumental music program for Mount Isa schools. Teachers are very willing to help students to catch up on work that they may have missed while attending their instrumental music lesson.

From time to time particularly for seniors around exam blocks, students may need to miss instrumental music lessons because of an in-class assessment or a class activity. Academic achievement is very important and the instrumental teachers will make every effort to re-schedule lessons although it is not always possible.

If a student needs to miss an instrumental lesson or ensemble rehearsal for any reason, the common procedure is to inform their instrumental teacher on the morning of the lesson. The key to all of this is communication. Instrumental teachers become very disappointed when a student misses their lesson or ensemble rehearsal with no explanation.

Instrument Loans

Students who are learning less expensive instruments e.g. flute, clarinet, trumpet, violin etc. are required to purchase their own instrument after a 1 year loan period.

More expensive instruments are available for loan periods at the discretion of the instrumental music teachers and the school Principal. Whilst students who play the larger instruments are encouraged to purchase their own, it is sometimes necessary that the instrument is loaned to the student whilst they are a member of the instrumental program.

All instruments have a maintenance levy of \$70.00 per year and parents/caregivers must sign an instrument agreement form before the student is able to take a school instrument home with them. In addition to the instrument levy all students in the instrumental program pay \$30.00 which goes towards providing and maintaining band and ensemble music.

Students are expected to complete 12 months tuition from when they join the program. Should you terminate lessons before the 12 months, there is no refund of the maintenance levy or the music library money.

Beginner package:

In 2010 beginner packages will be available for purchase from the school office for students enrolling in their first year of tuition. These packages will contain everything the student will require at a cost of \$30.00.

Beginner's Package includes:

Clarinet- (book, reeds, cork grease, cleaning cloth)

Saxophone - (book, reeds, cork grease, cleaning cloth)

Flute- (book, cleaning cloth, cleaning rod)

Trumpet- (book, valve oil, cleaning cloth)

Trombone- (book, slide cream, cleaning cloth)

Percussion- (book, drumsticks)

Strings- (book, rosin, cleaning cloth)

Please note that all instrumental music packs will be issued with a bag, pencil and eraser. Parents/Caregivers are responsible for replacement of any items.

Reporting Procedure

Instrumental music reports are issued to students at the conclusion of each semester. Parents are encouraged to ring the school office and make an appointment to speak to the relevant music teacher at any stage throughout the school year should you wish to discuss your child's progress or participation.

Damages/ Repairs to School Instruments

School instruments are passed from one year of students to the next, and as such need to be looked after and cared for. Students are responsible for the basic maintenance and cleaning of their instrument, as explained to them by their instrumental music teacher.

Please note: If a school instrument is damaged, under no circumstance is it to be sent to repairers by parents or students. The instrument must be returned to the instrumental music teacher to organise repairs. Depending on the nature of the damage, it may be required for parents/ caregivers to pay for repairs e.g. if instrument is damaged by student error. If the problem is simply natural wear and tear e.g. replacement of pads, corks etc... the school will be responsible for the repairs. The replacement of broken strings is the responsibility of the parents.

Insurance

Once instruments leave the school premises they are no longer insured by the school. It is highly recommended that parents/caregivers insure the instrument under their own Home and Contents policy. This is particularly important as the replacement cost for many instruments is quite expensive.

Benefits of Participation in Instrumental Music

For Your Child:

Music participation enhances and develops:

Problem-solving

Teamwork

Goal-setting

Self-expression

Physical Co-ordination

Memory skills

Self-Confidence and esteem

Concentration

Poise

For Your Family:

Your child's study also offers opportunities for shared family experiences, including:

Musical event attendance

Family music making

Performing for, and with, family and friends

A sense of accomplishment and pride for the entire family.

Instrumental Ensembles

One of the requirements of being a member of the instrumental music program is to become a member of a school or district ensemble. This will depend on the number and level of students in individual schools and will be decided at the discretion of the instrumental music teacher.

The following ensembles will be continuing in 2009. Schools that currently do not have ensembles will be advised when ensembles are formed at their school.

Please note that this is when the rehearsal starts, so students should arrive ten minutes earlier so they are seated and ready to start at designated times. Extra rehearsals may be scheduled closer to performances or competitions.

Mount Isa String Orchestra and Junior Strings

The Mount Isa String Orchestra is a community run group for string students and interested adults. When a student reaches AMEB First grade they are invited by their teacher to join. MISO currently rehearses on Tuesday evenings 6.30-8.00pm at the Healy State School music room.

Mount Isa Junior Strings is for students at the Preliminary standard of string playing. Rehearsals are 5.30-6.30pm each Tuesday evening at Healy State School music room. Once again, students are invited to attend by their teacher.

Mount Isa Concert Band

The Mount Isa Concert Band is a community run band for all Woodwind /Brass/ Percussion students and interested adults. Students will be advised by their teacher when they are at a suitable level to join this group. MICB currently rehearses on Thursday afternoons from 3:30~ 4:30 pm at the Spinifex State College- Junior Campus music.

Guidelines for Participation in Ensembles

The Mount Isa Instrumental Music Program recognises that the best results will be obtained through dedication, commitment and persistence.

The following guidelines are designed to assist students to get the best out of their membership of school ensembles.

As a member of a school ensemble, the student should:

1. Attend all possible rehearsals. If you miss more than **one** rehearsal in any one term without adequate apology your conductor may decide to vacate your position in the ensemble.
2. Attend all performances. When in extreme cases this is not possible, a written apology signed by a parent/caregiver is required not less than **one week in advance**. Students who miss performances without explanation may automatically lose their position in the ensemble.
3. Prepare and learn your music outside rehearsals. The rehearsals are to prepare for performances, not to learn notes.
4. Keep your music in good condition. Marks can be made in pencil only.
5. Be seated and ready to play at the designated rehearsal start time.

6. Be responsible in actively wanting to make your best possible contribution to the ensemble, especially in rehearsal. Always listen attentively.

7. Take note of all ensemble newsletters and show them to your parents.

8. Bring your music, a 2B pencil and an eraser to every rehearsal.

9. Inform your conductor personally if illness or any other emergency precludes you from participating in any event at the last minute. **A message via a friend is not acceptable.**

10. Mobiles phones are to be switched off or put onto silent during rehearsals and kept in school bags. If this rule is not followed they will be confiscated and the students will be asked to collect them from the office.

Encouraging Good Playing Skills

The following playing times are for maintaining development only and are a minimum requirement.

Year 3	10 minutes daily
Years 4-7	15-20 minutes daily
Years 8-10	20-30 minutes daily
Years 11-12	30-60 minutes daily

Wind/Brass/Percussion:

Warm ups- Long notes/ tonguing exercises

Technical skill building- scales and exercises

Specific development- work on the correct notes and rhythm

Set works- Standard of Excellence/Band music

Strings:

Work through set text for each week and revise old material

Student tips for playing at home

Set a specific time and room without distraction to play in and always use that time and place.

Set yourself small goals so you achieve something each day.

Listen to yourself- be critical of your own playing and only accept your very best.

Where do we perform?

ANZAC Day

Tours/Workshops

Parade performances

Eisteddfod

School musical

Awards Night Presentations

Musical evenings

Community events

School Fetes

Returning School Instruments

All Wind and Brass instruments are to be returned to Spinifex State College- Junior Campus and all string instruments are to be returned to Healy State School in the second last week of term 4. **No instruments are to be kept over the Christmas Holiday Period.**

Parental Support

Always keep in mind that your support is an essential element in your child's success with music study. Encourage your child to play their instrument regularly. Music achievement requires effort over a period of time. New concepts learned at school need to be played daily for these skills to be developed.

You can help your child by:

Providing a quiet place in which to play at home

Scheduling a consistent daily playing time

Praising your child's efforts and achievements

To give your child the best support, you should:

- Remind your child to bring instrument and music to lessons and rehearsals
- Encourage your child to play for family and friends
- Offer compliments and encouragement regularly
- Expose your child to a wide variety of music, including concerts and recitals.
- Encourage your child to talk with you about classes
- Make sure your child's instrument is well maintained
- Listen to your child's playing and acknowledge improvement
- Encourage your child to make a commitment to his or her music studies
- Get to know your child's teacher

What to avoid:

- Using practice as a punishment
- Insisting your child play for others when he/she doesn't want to
- Ridiculing or making fun of mistakes or less-than-perfect playing
- Apologising to others for your child's weak performance

How to help maintain interest:

- Talk with your child if his or her interest begins to decline
- Discuss with the instrumental music teachers ways to maintain your child's enthusiasm for playing

These guidelines are designed to assist you in giving your child the best support possible for his or her musical endeavors. Like any skill, interest counts far more than talent. With strong support from you, playing music will become a natural part of your child's life.

A Closing Thought-WHY LEARN MUSIC?

Music is scientific: It is precise, specific, and demands accurate acoustics. A conductor's score is a complex chart that indicates frequency, intensity, volume, melody, and harmony, all at once and with the most exact control of time.

Music is mathematical: It is rhythmically based on the subdivisions of time into fractions that must be calculated, interpreted, and applied instantaneously.

Music is a foreign language: Music notation is a highly developed kind of shorthand based on symbols that represent ideas.

Music is history: It reflects the environment and times of its creation, including the cultural and social values

Music is physical education: It requires exceptional coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lips, cheeks, and facial muscles.

Music is philosophy: It demands research, contemplation and interpretation. It develops insight and perspective.

Music is art: It allows a human being to take dry, boring and often difficult techniques and use them to create emotion.

Music is the human experience: Music inspires thought, reflection and emotion. Rhythm and tone stimulates moods-such as joy, sorrow or anger. Music relates to us the stories of human experience.

Music develops intelligence: It is the only thing we do that uses both hemispheres of the brain simultaneously

Instrumental Music contributes to these career paths:

Artist/ band/orchestra manager

Arts administrator

Audio engineer

Choral director

Composer

Conductor

Entertainer

Multi-media artist

Music copyright lawyer

Music librarian

Music publishing

Music software design and marketing

Musician- vocalist/instrumentalist

Music Teacher