



Woodwind and Brass Handbook

Flute – Clarinet - Saxophone

Trumpet - Trombone

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Brass and Woodwind Students

Flute

- Highest sound of all the woodwind instruments
- Very popular orchestral, band and solo instrument
- Usually plays the melody part
- Between 2-3 flautists required for youth orchestras, and 8-10 flautists for symphonic bands
- It can take a little time to produce a strong sound - there is breathing, tonguing and finger co-ordination to consider but most students achieve a reasonable sound within the first few weeks of lessons
- Instrument sizes: one size only, but can get a curved headjoint
- Recommended earliest starting is Grade 3

Clarinet

- Has the widest range of the woodwind family between resonant low notes and very high pitched sounds
- Concert bands need many clarinets as they provide the basis of the concert band sound
- Can play both the melody and harmony part
- Clarinets are very light and easy to carry
- Used for multiple styles of music: Classical, Jazz, Contemporary
- Easy to learn the lower register, but more difficult to learn the second and third registers
- Quite fun to play
- Recommended earliest starting is Grade 2

Saxophone

- Is the most versatile and has the widest range of tone of all the woodwind instruments
- Very popular concert band instrument
- Can play both the melody and harmony part
- Between 4-6 saxophonists required for concert and stage bands
- Easy to learn at the start and steady progress is normally maintained
- Instrument sizes: Alto, Tenor and Baritone
- Recommended earliest starting is Grade 3

Trombone

- Is a larger and lower brass instrument from the trumpet
- It has a long slide instead of valves, and different notes are produced by the positioning of the slide
- It uses a bass clef instead of the treble clef
- A student needs to develop good breath control
- The trombone is important in orchestras, bands
- Easy to learn at the beginning but initial progress can be slow
- Recommended earliest starting is Grade 4

Trumpet

- Highest sound of all the brass instruments
- Easy to transport
- It is in the key of Bb, unlike the piano which is in the key of C
- A sound from the instrument is achieved by blowing 'raspberries' into the mouthpiece
- There are three valves producing different notes and they are supported by breath to reach higher and lower notes
- Recommended earliest starting is Grade 3

Type of lesson available

Individual Lesson: with one Student - 30 minutes

- Standard format for instrumental lessons
- Repertoire and rate of progress is specifically designed for each student
- Care and attention is taken to establish sound musical and technical facility on the instrument
- Preparation towards A.M.E.B. exams can be covered in these lessons. The group Exam Class is a requirement for exam students. This class includes aural tests, general knowledge and sight-reading practice together with performance practice (See section on Exam Class)

Shared Lesson: with 2 students - 30 minutes

- This lesson is designed as an introduction to the instrument where both students learn the same material
- The Teacher's time is shared equally between both students. Their rate of progress will not be as fast as for students enrolled in individual lessons.

Woodwind*	Flute & Band	Min starting grade – Yr 3
	Clarinet & Band	Min starting grade – Yr 2
	Alto Saxophone & Band	Min starting grade – Yr 3
Brass	Trumpet & Band	Min starting grade – Yr 3
	Trombone & Band	Min starting grade – Yr 4

* A good indicator for beginning students is the complete growth of both upper and lower front teeth.

Lessons

- Lessons are timetabled throughout the school day
- They are organized, where possible, not to clash with Specialist class lessons
- In 2012, students will receive 32 weeks tuition over the course of the year

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
7 lessons	11 lessons	10 lessons	4 lessons Up to 8 makeup lessons, if required

- Lessons commence in the week beginning 13th February, 2012
- A student who attends lessons on time and comes well equipped will receive the total lesson time
- Should a student forget to bring an instrument to school, a theory lesson may be given, at the discretion of the Teacher
- Before students begin to learn an instrument, it needs to be understood this requires a commitment of at least one term
- Prior to a performance, lessons may be grouped with other students in order for small ensembles to rehearse together. These will be arranged at the discretion of the Teacher

A.M.E.B. Exams

- Australian Music Examinations Board(A.M.E.B.) is the organization that runs an independent examination service
- Exams are available for: Piano, Singing, Strings, Brass and Woodwind
- Most exams are held at the AMEB studios, 259 Auburn Road, Hawthorn
- It is important a student is in command of the material presented at exams to make the most of the rewarding experience
- Should we have a considerable number of students sitting for the same instrument, we can request an examiner to come to the school

Exam Class

- An applicant must be accepted by the Instrumental Teacher
- A unique opportunity for participants to improve motivation and receive positive peer support whilst preparing for individual exams
- The group class runs once a fortnight throughout the 32 weeks of instrumental lessons
- Designed to cover aural tests, general knowledge, and sight-reading elements for the A.M.E.B. exam
- Performance practice is conducted alongside preparation led by the Instrumental Teacher
- Please tick the relevant box on the enrolment form to receive the Exam Class Handbook.

Ensemble

Beginner Band and Flute Group

- Ensemble for new Brass and Woodwind students
- New flute students have a separate ensemble called Flute Group which runs until students are able to join Beginner Band
- Weekly rehearsals – length of rehearsals is governed by the number of students
- Designed to reinforce technical grounding covered in lessons
- Introduces reading, clapping and writing exercises
- Encourages students to play the same material together

Junior Band

- Reinforces skills learnt during lessons
- Introduces playing with other wind and brass instruments
- Listening exercises and dynamics introduced
- Part playing is introduced
- Student progress into these ensembles is by Teacher recommendation

Concert Band

- Pieces are more complex and challenging
- The music is fun to play
- There is a bonding between players, and a feeling of community

Performances/Concerts

The Skill of Performing

- Concerts encourage a student to focus on a goal
- This experience develops the ability of a student to feel comfortable when performing
- Highlights the progress of a student from year to year
- Two major performances are arranged each year, as follows

Woodwind and Brass Concert – Term 2

- Solos
- Small group items
- Larger ensembles
- Students organize the concert, learn stage management and announcing.
- Prior to the performance, rehearsals may change time in order for ensembles to rehearse together. These will be arranged at the discretion of the Teacher
- A notice is sent to parents a few weeks before the concert

Music Showcase – Friday 26th October

- All school ensembles perform
- A combined bands ensemble is rehearsed for this concert
- Prior to the performance, rehearsals may change time in order for ensembles to rehearse together. These will be arranged at the discretion of the Teacher
- A notice is sent to parents at the beginning of Term 4

Hire or Purchase of Instrument

Flutes

- Flutes come in the one size. It is possible to get a curved headjoint for those who are a little smaller so the arms do not need to stretch too far
- An instrument should be stored in its case in a cool dry place

Clarinets and Saxophones

- There is only one size Bb clarinet used
- The most common saxophone used is the Eb Alto saxophone
- Both clarinets and saxophones use reeds and new players should start with a reed size strength of 1½
- Saxophones also use a neck strap to hold the saxophone when it is being played
- An instrument should be stored in its case in a cool dry place

Brass Instruments

- Trumpet and trombone instruments come in one size
- Valve oil should be applied regularly to valves and a trumpet should be washed in warm water
- An instrument should be stored in its case in a cool dry place

Hire from school

- The advantage of hiring an instrument from school is the availability of a larger instrument as soon as the need arises
- It is recommended a parent insure the instrument under their house contents
- A hire agreement form and instrument will be given to a student at the first lesson
- A hired instrument is to be used only by the student whose name is written on the tag
- When damage occurs:
 - The Teacher will assess, and, if need be, take it to an expert repairer at your expense
 - Do not try to repair it - modern adhesives can seriously damage both the sound and value of an instrument
- Hire of a school instrument extends across term holidays
- There is a small charge for hiring an instrument over the Christmas holidays
- A hired instrument is to be returned at a student's final lesson for the year

Purchase of an instrument

The names and details of recommended flute instrument stores can be obtained from the Teacher

- Flute: There are many places where a flute may be purchased, including music stores, the internet, and second hand stores. However, not all of these are good options so please contact the Teacher if you have any queries
- Clarinet: It is preferable a new clarinet is purchased as an instrument is subject to wear at the joints
- Saxophone: As saxophones are very expensive, it is reasonable to purchase a quality second hand instrument

Storage of Instruments at School

- All instruments are to be stored in the room where the lesson will occur
- Instruments are not to be left inside classrooms or near school bags

What you need

Music Record Book

- Each student is required to use the music record book supplied by the school at the first lesson
- Replacement books can be purchased from the Instrumental Co-ordinator for \$9

Music Book

- An A4 display book to hold individual sheets of music especially for band music
- When a music tutor book is required, the Teacher will advise the name and price of the book and music shops where it is available.
- A display book with plastic inserts for ensemble music

Music Stand

- The purchase of a music stand is highly recommended for each student
- Compact fold-up metal stands, available at most music shops, cost \$30-40

Accessories

Flute

- A cleaning cloth – a soft handkerchief is the best and cheapest option

Clarinet

- Up to 5-6 reeds at a time to ensure good tone is produced by the student

Saxophone

- A comfortable neck strap to support the saxophone
- Up to 5-6 reeds at a time to ensure good tone is produced by the student

Trumpet and Trombone

- Valve oil and slide grease

Practice

- Parents should encourage a student to establish a regular practice routine
- Practice should be in a room with:
 - limited distractions
 - a door that can be closed
 - an area where a music stand can remain assembled
- A student should aim to practise for 10 minutes for a minimum 4 days a week, with an increase in time as the student progresses. Regular practice is important for both the development of general music skills, sound production and breathing

Helpful Hints

- A student is encouraged to advise the Instrumental Teacher when unable to attend a lesson
- A student should ask at the office when the Teacher cannot be located
- The night before a lesson, a student should place the instrument alongside a school bag as a reminder
- A student may wear a watch or bring an alarm clock as a reminder to go to a lesson

Missed Lessons

- Should your child be unable to attend a lesson, you should notify the Office as soon as possible
- A total of 8 makeup lessons are permitted per year
- Replacement lessons for a shared student may be given as an individual lesson which will count as two shared lessons. This will be arranged at the discretion of the Teacher
- The student is expected to attend the make-up lesson or the lesson will be forfeited
- Should a Teacher be absent, the lesson will be replaced
- Note: Make-up lesson weeks are no longer held at the end of each term

Discontinuing Lessons

- Occasionally a student loses interest in learning their instrument. Often these are momentary lapses of enjoyment and with the right encouragement a student can persevere through these times. If you are concerned, contact the Instrumental Teacher to talk over how best to support your child.
- After discussion with the Instrumental Teacher, should you wish to discontinue lessons written notification must be received by the end of the current term.
- When a student discontinues lessons at the end of Terms 1, 2 or 3, any makeup lessons due are forfeited

Pricing Structure and Accounts

Flute – Clarinet – Saxophone – Trumpet – Trombone & Band

Pricing Structure

- Accounts are calculated on the number of teaching weeks each term

	Individual Lesson & Band	Shared Lesson & Band
Term 1	\$ 290	\$ 179
Term 2	\$ 424	\$ 249
Term 3	\$ 388	\$ 230
Term 4	\$ 176	\$ 112
Total	\$ 1278	\$ 770
Instrument Hire	\$60 per term	

Accounts

- Charges for lessons and ensemble will be included in the school financial statement each term.
- As this program is not government subsidized, prompt payment of fees is required in order to maintain the financial management of the program.
- Lessons may be subject to suspension if payment is not up to date and will only be restored when received.

Account Examples

What you enrolled for:

Individual lesson	Individual lesson 1 st Instrument – Term 1
Shared lesson	Shared lesson 1 st Instrument – Term 1
Ensemble	1 st Ensemble – Term 1

If your child is learning two instruments, or plays in two ensembles:

Individual lesson and a shared lesson	Individual lesson 1 st Instrument – Term 1 Shared Lesson 2 nd Instrument – Term 1
For two ensembles	1 st Ensemble – Term 1 2 nd Ensemble – Term 1

ENROLMENT FOR WOODWIND/BRASS LESSONS

Student Name

2011 Class

2012 Class

Enrolment

New Continuing

Student has learnt this instrument elsewhere for _____ years.

Instrument If you plan on learning a second instrument, complete a separate form

Flute Clarinet Saxophone Trumpet Trombone

Type of Lesson

Individual Shared

Assess student for suitability for an A.M.E.B. exam and forward Exam Class Handbook

I need to hire a school instrument I own an instrument

Parent/Guardian Authorization

I agree with the conditions set out in the Instrumental Handbook.

I have explained the conditions to my child and the responsibilities are understood.

Signature

/ /

Signature of Student

/ /

I agree to my contact details being available to the Instrumental Teacher.

Name: (Please print) _____ Mother / Father / Guardian

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Enrolment forms received in the Office before 4pm on Friday 9th December, 2011, automatically go into the draw for a \$50 Kmart gift card. Winner will be advised on Monday, 12th December.

Office use: Received: / /

App. Number: MM:

Lesson Day: M Tu W Th F Time:

Ensemble: CB JB BB Hire: Yes / No