

# Instrumental Music Program Handbook 2024



BUCKLEY PARK COLLEGE  
*Build your Wings*

**Instrumental Program / Points of Contact**

College Office Phone Number: (03) 9331 9999

Melissa Truman *Music Coordinator* [tm@buckleyparkco.vic.edu.au](mailto:tm@buckleyparkco.vic.edu.au)

**Classroom and Instrumental staff:**

Greg Rowan (*Drums/Percussion and Classroom*) [rw@buckleyparkco.vic.edu.au](mailto:rw@buckleyparkco.vic.edu.au)

Elizabeth Eliopoulos (*Voice*) [es@buckleyparkco.vic.edu.au](mailto:es@buckleyparkco.vic.edu.au)

TBC (*Brass*)

TBC (*Guitar, Bass and Classroom*)



# Welcome to the Instrumental Music Program

Music is a gift for life: an intangible medium enjoyed by children and adults of all ages. As individuals, we are all intrinsically motivated to create and move to music through our constant exposure to it in all parts of our life. Possessing the ability to stimulate the senses and the minds of both performers and listeners, music brings stories to life by means of rhythm, melody, and words. Each person who creates music expresses themselves as an individual through this powerful medium. Here at Buckley Park College, we offer the opportunity to learn and create music via our vibrant Instrumental Music Program. Through a combination of band, small group and individual lessons, students receive a quality music education that caters to their specific learning needs and interests. Equipping students with the fundamentals of instrumental music making, they develop a deeper understanding and appreciation for the arts. I invite you to join with us in giving the gift of music to your children, as offered by the Buckley Park Instrumental Music Program.

Melissa Truman  
College Music Coordinator

## **The aims of the Instrumental Music Program at Buckley Park College are:**

- To have fun learning music in an enjoyable environment.
- To provide an opportunity for the musical development of students through instrumental instruction on a group and individual basis
- To provide ensemble experience for these students so that they develop ensemble performance skills as an integral part of their Music Education
- To encourage further development of team work, co-operation, organisation, responsibility and commitment, as well as positive peer relationships in a fun and enjoyable environment; and
- To foster an appreciation of a variety of music styles and genres

## **INSTRUMENTS TAUGHT AT THE SCHOOL**

A wide variety of instruments from the instrument families: Woodwind, Brass and Percussion. We also offer tuition in Bass Guitar, Guitar and Voice at the school.

The list of instruments taught at the school includes:

<p><b>WOODWIND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Flute</li><li>● Clarinet</li><li>● Alto Saxophone</li><li>● Tenor Saxophone</li></ul> <p><b>BRASS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Trumpet</li><li>● Trombone</li><li>● French Horn</li><li>● Euphonium</li></ul>	<p><b>GUITARS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Electric / Acoustic Guitar *</li><li>● Bass Guitar *</li></ul> <p><b>DRUMS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Drum Kit *</li><li>● Auxiliary Percussion</li></ul> <p><b>VOICE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● All types and styles</li></ul>
---	---

\* Indicates limited places available for these instruments

## **WHAT IS TAUGHT**

Our teaching centres on the basic components to the process of learning to play an instrument, which have been organised into eleven areas of learning and skill development.

These include:

- ┆ The Instrument
- ┆ Playing Posture
- ┆ Tone
- ┆ Pitch Repertoire
- ┆ Tuning and Intonation
- ┆ Articulation
- ┆ Terms & Symbols
- ┆ Rhythmic & Melodic Perception
- ┆ Improvisation & Composition
- ┆ Sight Reading
- ┆ Performance



## **HOW THE LESSONS WORK**

**40-minute individual and/or group lesson on a weekly basis.**

**32 scheduled lessons throughout the school year plus ensembles.**

Students who have chosen VCE music will be prioritised for individual lessons.

Lessons are scheduled on a rotating timetable reflected on Compass.

Students are required to attend all scheduled music lessons and ensemble rehearsals.

Additional lessons may be scheduled, depending on the students' curricular calendar and interruptions from camps, excursions, school carnivals etc..

## **ADDITIONAL INSTRUMENT**

Students can only undertake an additional instrument where there is a vacancy in the appropriate class and after consultation with the Teacher and Music Coordinator. They must show an ongoing commitment to not only their instruments but their academic performance also.



## **BAND AND ENSEMBLE PARTICIPATION**

Participation in a core ensemble is an integral and compulsory aspect of our student's musical development with a focus on essential ensemble skills.

These skills include blend, ensemble precision, intonation, shaping phrases, plus much more and are the foundation to all music.

All students who learn an instrument at Buckley Park are expected to be part of at least one ensemble.

**Junior Band** (Before school 7:30am - 8:30am)

All students learning an instrument at school commence playing in this ensemble as soon as they are up to the required standard. It is from this band at any time (usually at the end of the year) that students will be promoted to other ensembles, as they grow in their musicality and basic mastery of their particular instrument.

**Concert Band** (After school 3:20pm - 4:30pm)

Concert Band is the next step for students moving on from Training band. It is here where students continue to develop their own musicality, further develop playing techniques, and expand their knowledge of Band Etiquette.

**Symphonic Band** (After school 3:20pm - 4:30pm)

This band is our senior band and can be entered by audition only. Students should have been learning for at least 3 years and demonstrated commitment to their instrument. The musicians will be met with exciting yet challenging pieces to further enhance technique and ensemble skills.

**Guitar Ensemble** (Lunchtime)

Open to students who play acoustic or electric guitars and bass guitar. This ensemble's focus is the learning of chords and songs for public performance. Players selected to perform in this ensemble will show superior skill on their instrument and attitudes towards improving their musicianship.

**Choir** (Lunchtime)

Open to all singers and students who are getting lessons in voice. This group focuses on learning melodies, harmony and singing in parts which combined creates the school choir which performs at assemblies, concerts and carolling.

## **EVENTS & PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES**

Throughout the year the students will have the opportunity to be part of musical events and performances. Some of these will be school based performances for functions, competitions or assemblies, where the school bands/ensembles will perform. Others will be special events to further showcase and/or develop student progress.

### **Below is a list of events to look forward to:**

- Orientation Performance
- Assembly Performances
- House Music competition
- Mid and End of Year Concerts
- Music Camp
- Production
- Carolling
- Christmas Concert
- Victorian School Bands Competition



## **PERFORMANCE UNIFORM**

**School uniform** - for all formal presentations and performances.

**Performance blacks** - for yearly concerts/events

- Black trousers or skirt (no loungewear or active wear)
- Black shoes and socks
- Black shirt

Students will be advised when other dress codes are appropriate.

**SUPPLYING YOUR CHILD WITH AN INSTRUMENT**

Buckley Park College has a small collection of good quality loan instruments that are available for loan.

**Annual cost is \$180**

The Instrumental Music Teacher will notify students accordingly to take up a loan instrument where available.

The following instruments are currently available for loan from the school:

- Flute & Clarinet
- Alto & Tenor Saxophone
- Trumpet & Trombone

Students are highly encouraged to purchase his/her own instrument by the beginning of their second year in the program. This will allow new students to have access to hire instruments on their entry into the program.

Alternatively students can choose to hire or rent to own instruments from music stores such as Fine Music. (e.g French Horn and Euphonium)

**FEES & COSTS**

In addition to lesson and group costs, there are some additional costs, which occur throughout the year. For example:

- Reeds & other ongoing requirements for respective instruments
- Regular servicing of own instrument as required
- Compulsory music books, particularly for Individual Lessons
- Various stationary including pencils & erasers
- Entrance fees for spectators at competitions for Parents/Carers
- Purchase of Performance Uniform Requirements (if needed)
- Camps, workshops & other special events

**INSTRUMENTAL FEES**

<b>Type of Instruction</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Instrument Hire	\$180 Per Year
Instrumental Lessons & Ensembles	\$800 annually
Instrumental Lessons (2nd)	\$400 annually

The above fees are based a minimum of 32 scheduled lessons, plus ensembles and school performances



The Department of Education provides funding to the school for just under half the salary costs of the instrumental program. The fee that parents pay makes up most of the rest of those salary costs and also includes the teacher time allocated to band and ensemble rehearsals and performances. Where a student takes tuition on a second instrument there is an additional fee.

The instrumental music program subscription is not a “per lesson” fee. Students in the instrumental program have access to various bands and ensembles and other activities which are also conducted and supported by the instrumental music teachers. Hence, the fee is for access to a whole program over the course of one school year.

These teachers not only take instrumental classes, they also run after school and lunchtime rehearsals and a range of performances throughout the year. In order to ensure continuity for students, teachers are employed for the full school year and not on a sessional basis. This considerably reduces the costs of the program and therefore, the costs to parents. However, this means that staff have entitlements to paid sick leave etc along with all other workers. The enrolment of students in the program is also for the full school year not on a lesson by lesson basis as is the enrolment of students in other subjects and courses in the school. Therefore, it is not an expectation that students are entitled to make-up lessons if their teacher is away.

Where parents are experiencing difficulties with payment, a plan to pay by instalment can be arranged by contacting the schools Business Manager.

Inquiries about the Instrumental Music Program should be directed to the music coordinator or instrumental staff.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR INSTRUMENTS**

Below is a helpful list of required accessories students need to learn music. Just as a car needs petrol, oil, water, and regular servicing, so do musical instruments to help them stay in good working order. Purchasing the items specific to the instrument your child is learning will assist them in achieving their full potential as an instrumentalist.

General Requirements for All Instrumentalists

<b>Instrument</b> (School loan or own instrument)	<b>Music Stand</b> - (for home practice)
<b>Specific Accessories for your instrument</b>	<b>Folders</b> - for music sheets and band
	<b>Method/Technical Books</b> - As needed

**SPECIFIC INSTRUMENT REQUIREMENTS**

**Flute**

- Cleaning rod
- Cleaning cloth

**Clarinet**

- Cleaning swab/pull through
- Reeds
- Cleaning cloth

**Saxophone:**

- Padded neck strap
- Cleaning swab/pull through
- Reeds

**All Brass:**

- Cleaning cloth
- Bottle of Valve oil
- Tuning slide grease

**Percussion/Drum Kit:**

- 1 pairs of Drum sticks 5A
- Practice pad (if no drum kit at home)

**Guitar & Bass Guitar:**

- Guitar lead
- Neck Strap
- Clip on tuner
- Guitar picks



## **EXPECTATIONS & COMMITMENT FROM STUDENTS & PARENTS/CARERS**

Once a student has been selected, and has joined the program there will be new responsibilities and some expectations placed upon them and the family.

### **Responsibilities include:**

- Knowing lessons times each week (check music timetables);
- Bringing all equipment to each lesson (instrument, book, etc);
- Caring for the instrument and keeping it safe (respect property); and
- Notifying the instrumental teacher if a loan instrument needs repairs
- immediately (Please do not attempt ANY repairs yourself).

### **Expectations include:**

- Punctually attending all lessons unless absent from school;
- Punctually attending all rehearsals;
- Punctually attending all performances; and
- Committing to the program for the minimum of a full school
- term.

### **Parent/Carer expectations include:**

- Providing a suitable practice area and time for the student;
- Providing encouragement and positive reinforcement of the student's progress;
- Assisting the student to meet his/her responsibilities (as above); and
- Providing the student with his/her own instrument by the beginning of their third year in the program. This will allow new students to begin those instruments with suitable turnaround time.

### **Absences from Lessons and Rehearsals**

- Students are required to contact their teacher 24hrs before being absent from a scheduled lesson or rehearsal; The teacher will try to organise a catch up where possible. Accommodations for late notice will not always be guaranteed and considered as a lesson towards the minimum 32 annual lessons.

### **Leaving the Instrumental Music Program**

- A student must have an exceptional reason for breaking his/her commitment to the program;
- Parents/Carers need to personally contact the Instrumental Music Teacher in order to resolve ALL issues.

## **STRATEGIES FOR PARENTS TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO PLAY AND PRACTICE**

Encourage them not to just practise but also encourage them to play. This relates not just to children beginning to play an instrument, but to students continuing to play through to Year 7 and beyond.

Playing an instrument in a room behind closed doors can be a very lonely experience. A little encouragement can go a long way to helping them to enjoy and achieve well with their instrument. Try one, some, or all of these ideas and add any that other parents may suggest:

- Have the child play near you so you can hear and enjoy their practice, maybe not every day but every so often.
- Even sit down with a book or just sit and listen.
- Praise their sounds (especially the good ones) often.
- Make a comment about the progress you notice.
- Show pride in their achievements and let them overhear you talking to your friends about their wonderful progress.
- Ask them to play for guests at home (they may not want to but sometimes just being asked means a lot to them).
- Notice difficult sections and ask how they are played.
- Comment on the piece of music – interesting melody, rhythm, changed sections.
- Set a practice routine. This is particularly important if your child or the household are involved in other activities outside of school.
- Don't nag or push your child to practise – it can become very stressful for both you and your child. If you are finding it difficult to get your child to practise, please come and talk to your Instrumental Music Teacher.

## **HINTS FOR SUCCESSFUL MUSIC PRACTICE**

- Always practise with your music on a music stand
- Try to practise at least 15-20 minutes four to five times per week
- Aim to gradually increase your practice time to 30 minutes each day over the first year
- Start and finish your practice with a piece you can play well and enjoy



## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC APPLICATION

Dear Parents/Carer,  
Your child is invited to join the Instrumental Music Program at Buckley Park College.

### Tuition is available in:

- Flute
- Clarinet
- Saxophone
- Trumpet
- French Horn
- Euphonium
- Trombone
- Percussion & Drum kit
- Guitar and Bass Guitar
- All Voice

Participation in the program includes weekly 40 minute lessons in an instrument or voice, membership of relevant bands and ensembles and preparation for and participation in various performances during the year. *Further information about the program is contained in the information pack and the attached form.*

Please note that it is a **requirement of participation** that students attend a band/ensemble rehearsal during lunch or before or after school. This not only ensures exposure to other musicians but maximum development of musicianship.

Students have an opportunity to hire instruments from the college or external companies which can be a more cost-effective way of giving students access to begin lessons. Instrument hire from the college is only available for woodwind and brass.

### The investment to join the program are:

Lessons, ensembles & consumables	\$800 annual
Additional instrumental lessons & consumables	\$400 annual
Instrument hire	\$180 annual, per instrument.

**Payments can be done via compass across two instalments.** It is also a commitment to the program for the whole year. Refunds of any part of the fee will only be provided where circumstances beyond the control of the student/family preclude continued participation. If you are experiencing difficulties with payments please contact Helen Spargo, Business Manager or the office to make direct debit payment arrangements.

Lessons will be paused if payments or arrangements are not received within the specified due dates.

As there are limited positions available in the Instrumental Music Program, we encourage you to return forms by the end of week 1, term 1. Students will be issued with an instrument and lessons will commence during the first few weeks of term 1.

I look forward to enjoying our students' performances with you at one of the year's musical evenings.

Yours sincerely,

Melissa Truman  
College Music Coordinator

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC APPLICATION FORM 2024



I wish to apply for my child to participate in the Instrumental Music Program at Buckley Park College

**Student Full Name:**

**Year Level:**

**Continuing student:**     **YES**             **New Student**

**Is this application for an additional instrument?**     **YES**

**Previous Learning Experience:**

Instrument	Years learnt	Level (e.g AMEB, Method Book)

**The instrument my child wishes to learn is:**

Number your top three preferences. *If you do not receive your first preference, only number if you are prepared to learn the instruments you choose.* **Continuing students please tick your instrument only.**

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> FLUTE       | <input type="checkbox"/> EUPHONIUM        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CLARINET    | <input type="checkbox"/> DRUMS/PERCUSSION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SAXOPHONE   | <input type="checkbox"/> VOCALS           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TRUMPET     | <input type="checkbox"/> GUITAR           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TROMBONE    | <input type="checkbox"/> BASS GUITAR      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FRENCH HORN |   |

*Due to limited space in the program, students may not have the option of learning their first preference instrument. Please note that instruments such as the bass guitar and percussion in particular have limited positions available. Applications will be considered as they are received.*

**My child will require instrument hire:**     **YES**             **NO**

**Instrument being hired:**

**please sign below if you have read and agree to the terms stated in the information pack and application form. A copy of the pack can be found on Compass. This form must be signed by a parent/legal guardian.**

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_