

## The Value of Music Education

A quality instrumental music education is of fundamental importance to the development of your child. New research shows that learning music can help your child in so many ways, including:

- increasing memory and reasoning capacity
- improving problem solving skills
- improving mathematics and language performance
- developing self-discipline skills
- increasing concentration, memory and self expression
- developing time management skills
- developing social and team skills
- helping under-performing students to improve

Being a part of Box Hill High School's music program is one of the most rewarding activities that your child can experience in school. It is our aim to engage all students in playing an instrument. At Box Hill High School music is not seen as an extra-curricular activity but as an essential co-curricular activity.

Throughout the history of Box Hill High School, many of the student leaders and high academic achievers have been a part of the music program. Many current and past school captains and also the duxes of VCE and other year levels have been actively involved in the program.

## Box Hill High School Instrumental Music Program

Box Hill High School has a long tradition of excellence in its music program. In the past, the majority of our Year 7 students who have become involved in the program, find that their participation enhances both their academic and social development.

We offer a comprehensive performance-based music program. Students are given the opportunity to be involved in a variety of musical activities that include:

1. Participation in a variety of school ensembles such as:

Year 7 Concert Band	Intermediate Concert Band
Wind Symphony	Stage Band
Junior Choir	Senior Choir
Guitar Ensemble	Flute Ensemble
Saxophone Ensemble	Clarinet Choir
Brass Ensemble	Percussion Ensemble
String Ensemble	

2. Attendance at music tours, camps and workshops.
3. Full use of our well-resourced music department.
4. Classroom music from Year 7 – VCE.

VCE Music Performance is offered, and Solo Music Performance is offered in Year 12



### Lessons

Students are placed in a group comprised of students who are at the same standard. Lessons are provided weekly with a specialist, fully qualified teacher. Students come out of class for their lessons which rotate around the six periods of the school day. With the 10 day timetable at Box Hill High School, generally students miss out on the same period only once a term.

We encourage them to have a ‘buddy’ in class who can let them know of what homework needs to be done, or to collect an extra copy of a handout if required. Where students miss two music lessons with no explanation, a letter from the Instrumental Music teacher and the Director of Music will be sent home requesting a reason for this occurrence. This is to ensure that parents are aware of the situation.

### Ensemble

Ensemble is a vital part of the Box Hill High School Music Department. It is the time once a week when students get together to put all the pieces of the musical jigsaw together. Just some of the benefits of being an active member of an ensemble are that it builds self-confidence and self-esteem, giving students a sense of accomplishment and pride. It also assists students to develop socially. Students are to give rehearsals priority over other activities so that the best possible progress can be made. If, for some reason, a rehearsal is to be missed, the student concerned needs to notify the relevant conductor in writing of the situation at least 24 hours before the rehearsal.

The first rehearsal for the Year 7 Band will be in Term 2. The first performance for the Year 7 band will also be during term 2.

Year 7 Concert Band	Wednesday	7.45 – 8.30am
Concert Band (intermediate)	Monday	3.10 – 4pm
Wind Symphony (senior)	Tuesday	3.10 – 4.30pm
Stage Band	Monday	3.10 -4.30pm
Senior Choir	Monday	Lunchtime
Junior Choir	Wednesday	Lunchtime
Guitar Ensemble	Tuesday	Lunchtime
Percussion Ensemble	Friday	Lunchtime
String Ensemble	Thursday	Lunchtime



### Ensemble Balance

So that each of our musical ensembles sound complete, it is important that we have a good mix of different instruments. Each ensemble needs to have some bass instruments (the larger ones) as well as higher ones and those in between. If you liken it to a football team, you wouldn't be able to field an effective team of 18 forwards. All positions need to be covered. Good music making is no different. It is for this reason that there is a restriction on some instrument numbers. This will particularly apply to flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, guitar, voice and percussion.

## Practice

In order for progress to be made it is essential and expected that all students will undertake regular practice at home. Developing the self-discipline that it takes to practice and improve is one of the greatest benefits of studying a musical instrument. Students starting in Year 7 should be practicing a minimum of 20 minutes each day.

It is during the first years of study that practice habits are developed. Parents can help by creating a set time and a private place with a music stand to practice in the home. Children need an approving audience. Be encouraging! Let your child know you are interested and listen to him/her practice when possible. Children also may need to be reminded to practice. Skill development depends upon practice and skills developed will erode without regular practice. A consistent approach to practicing will help and parent intervention may be required at times. Even a few minutes is better than no minutes! Feel free to contact your child's teacher if you feel motivation is a problem.

## Materials Required

Students will be required to purchase additional materials once they have their instrument. Students need to acquire a music stand (approximately \$20-25), and a tutor book called Essential Elements (for your instrument) (approx. \$20). Other instrument specific items such as valve oil for brass instruments, reeds for woodwind instruments (except flute) and sticks for percussionists, will need to be acquired. All students are also required to have a notebook to write down what they need to practice for the week.

## Getting an Instrument

Obtaining a musical instrument can be done in a number of ways. They can be purchased new or used, hired or you can use one already owned. If unsure of condition/suitability, bring it in for a teacher to look at.

### Purchasing an instrument

Research has shown that when children learn on their own instrument they are 30-49% less likely to drop out of the music program in school. Your child experiences the pride of ownership and will be even more dedicated towards their music education. In addition to this, your commitment to your child by buying an instrument instills a sense of confidence in your child that says my parents "believe in me".

If circumstances do change and you want to sell the instrument, quality instruments that have been purchased second hand keep their price extremely well.

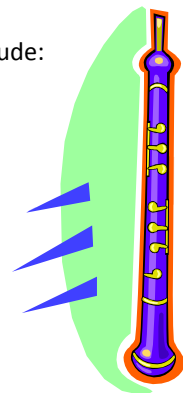
Please do not buy an instrument from a supermarket chain. These instruments are inferior quality. For advice on the purchase of a new or second hand instrument, please see one of the Box Hill High School music staff.

### School instruments available for hire

At Box Hill High School we have a limited number of instruments for hire for \$250 per year. They include:

Trumpet	Tuba	French Horn	Trombone	Bassoon
Tenor Saxophone	Euphonium	Oboe		

If a smaller, less expensive school instrument is hired such as trumpet or trombone, it is expected that after 1 year of learning, parents will purchase a second hand or new instrument. This makes instruments available for the new Year 7 students.



### Music Staff

Box Hill High School is very fortunate to have a dedicated team on the music staff who all work towards your child succeeding in playing their instrument. They are:

Mr Martin Corcoran	Clarinet, Saxophone and Flute
Mr Troy Rogers	Saxophone and Clarinet
Mr Travis Easton	Percussion
Mr Gianni Marinucci	Brass
Ms Emily Brown	Voice
Mr Peter Simondson	Guitar and Bass Guitar
Mr Dan Gordon	Tuba, Trombone, Double Bass and Bass Guitar
Mr Adam Watson	Clarinet and Saxophone
Ms Vivienne Tate	Flute and Clarinet
Ms Tanya Balka	Violin, Viola and Cello
Ms Anne Mather	Oboe

### Music Tours & Camps

Music is an activity that always sounds best at the end of a camp or tour as it is the consistent application of skills each day that assists ensembles to play to their full potential. All students have the opportunity to go on camps and tours at some point in their time at Box Hill High School. A camp is run each year as an intensive musical experience for the students and students have the chance to bond over the three days.

### Fees

Participation fees are \$450 a year. This includes tuition and ensemble participation. The fees are heavily subsidised by the school so that an excellent Music Education is accessible to all.