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Introduction.

Welcome to the Rochedale State School Strings Instrumental Music Program. We are very fortunate to have a Strings Program at our school. Not all Queensland schools have this privilege.

Instrumental Teachers are supplied by the Queensland Department of Education. The program includes free tuition, during school hours, in Stringed Instruments. The school is responsible for the ongoing costs of the program.

Learning a musical instrument and the training at school lay the foundations for a lifetime of rewarding musical activity.

MUSIC STAFF

Joel Eames
Classroom Music and Strings
Bryan Pearson
Brass, Woodwind and Percussion
Andrea Eames
Classroom Music
Eligibility & Selection

Stringed instrument instruction begins for students in year 3 and continues into the upper grades.

A child may learn only one instrument through this Program and entry to the Program is through the selection process as outlined below.

This selection occurs in second semester of Year 2. Children are not started at other times during the year except in special circumstances.

A child who has their own instrument is not guaranteed a place in the Instrumental Program. They must participate in the selection process as outlined below.

The selection process also involves recruiting for a balanced ensemble.

Matching Children’s Aptitudes to Instruments

In choosing an instrument for a particular child, the school’s music staff takes into account the school’s needs in terms of ensemble balance, and the parents’ ability to help supervise home practice. Consideration is also given to the availability of a school instrument for loan or a parents’ willingness to invest in their own instrument for the child.

Selection Procedure

The selection procedure is as follows:

1. - assessing of children for musical aptitude
   - general musicianship
   - indication of child’s choice of instrument

2. Discussion with class teachers with regard to diligence, reliability and attitude to work, etc.

3. Instrumental teachers assess the children’s physical suitability for their desired instrument and other instruments.

4. The selection process also involves recruiting for a balanced band and therefore there are a limited number of places for each instrument.
5. If successful, an offer of an instrument is sent home. Parents are asked to accept or decline the offer by the designated date, otherwise the instrument is offered to the next student on the waiting list.

6. Term 1 of the following year, children are given an instrument loan form. Once this is signed and returned to the instructor, children are issued with a school instrument.

**Instrument Allocation**

Our school possesses a number of instruments, which are available for loan to beginning grade three students.

As part of the agreement to join the Instrumental Program, after the first year, students on violin and cello are required to purchase their own instrument, thus freeing up the school instruments for the next intake of beginners.

Instruments are loaned under the following conditions:

- Parents and children are to sign and return the loan agreement form.
- After a year, parents are expected to purchase their child’s instrument.
- All instruments are to be kept in good repair and any deliberate damage or damage caused through accident, neglect or misuse must be paid for by the parents.
Tuition

Children selected for the Instrumental Program receive one half hour lesson per week on their instrument.

The lessons are conducted in small groups containing approximately 4 – 6 children. The lesson is timetabled at a fixed time each week.

Children need to excuse themselves from class five minutes before their lesson in order to set up their instruments. Late arrivals disrupt lessons.

Children are also responsible for making up the class work missed by attending their instrumental lesson.

All children involved in receiving instrumental lessons must participate in one of the school bands. Children are placed in these groups according to demonstrated ability with an instrument and once chosen for a group, the child must accept responsibility for attendance, practice and punctuality.

In addition, a child may be involved in other groups by audition and invitation.
Commitment

The initial commitment made by the child is for one year. Any changes to this can only be made through consultation with both the Strings Teacher and the Principal.

The child’s commitment throughout the year involves:

- Regular practice
- Participation in ensemble/s
- Punctual and consistent attendance at all instrumental activities (lessons, ensemble rehearsals and performances including those outside school hours)
- Exemplary behaviour is expected in Instrumental lessons, ensemble and at all public performances
- Taking care of the instrument

The parents’ commitment throughout the year involves:

- Supervision of regular practice
- Ensuring regular attendance at lessons and rehearsals
- Overseeing the care of the instrument
- Regular replacement of items as necessary, e.g. rosin, sheet music, tutor books.
Practice Ensures Success

The child is to fill in the practice sheet each day. Parents initial the sheet each week.

Children are required to practice a minimum of 30 minutes a day, five days a week. Beginners start by practising 10 – 15 minutes and gradually increase to 30 minutes per day.

How to Practice

Learning takes place at school, however, progress depends on what is achieved during daily practice sessions at home.

Remember, when practising the music, stop to correct mistakes WHERE THEY OCCUR. Zero in on the problems and spend most of the practice time on these. Don’t keep going back to the beginning.

Helpful Hints:

- Practise in a well lit, quiet enclosed room without distractions from the TV, radio or other people
- Use a music stand to ensure good posture
- Practice in front of a mirror
- Practice at a regular time each day – early morning is best. Avoid late evening practice when body and mind are tired
- More can be achieved in thirty minutes each day than two hours once per week
- Reward yourself for your good work by ending with your favourite piece
**What to Practice**

- Advanced students should practice warm-up exercises, scales and technical work
- Practice work set in tutor book
- Practice additional ensemble or solo music

**Rehearsals**

String students will be a part of the string ensemble from year 4 onwards.

The String Ensemble rehearses on Monday afternoons in the RPAC from 3pm – 3:45

**Costs Involved**

**Levy:**
- All participants in the Instrumental Music Program pay $40 each year to cover the cost of photocopying, purchase of music and equipment
- Children borrowing a school instrument are required to pay an additional hire charge of $30. These costs are subject to change. (Parents will be invoiced by the Office and all payments are to the Office).

**What Students will need:**
- Parents are required to purchase the tutor book *Essential Elements – Violin Book 1* or *Cello Book 1* and some rosin prior to the commencement of lessons. This will cost approximately $30.
- Additional tutor books and rosin may be required in following years.

**Purchase of Own Instrument** is by the end of the first year of tuition.

**Regular Maintenance** of instrument including replacement strings when needed.

**Entry fees** for festivals, performances etc.
Communications

Because of time constraints, please arrange an appointment if you wish to discuss your child’s progress. This can be done by writing a note to the Teacher involved or asking the Office to ring the Teacher concerned.

As a matter of courtesy, if your child is unable to attend their lesson or band practice due to an appointment, a test or an excursion, please inform the Instrumental Teacher in advance. Written notes for late arrivals or illness are greatly appreciated.

Difficulties

If difficulties are being experienced in practising, waning interest levels, instrument function or attendance, please make an appointment (or organise a phone call) with the Instrumental Teacher to discuss the situation.

Practice Sheets

Regular communication takes place via the Practice Sheet brought to each lesson and initialled by parents and the Instrumental Teacher.

Progress

Children receive a progress report at the end of first and second semester as part of their school report card.

Parents are also notified should a child not be performing at an acceptable standard. Lack of practice, irregular attendance, poor punctuality or attitude will not be tolerated and parents may be advised.

*Music is a disciplined art – without self-discipline and persistence there can be no progress or success. There are no short cuts and there is no magic wand. The recipe for success is 90% hard work, 10% talent and a dash of interest.*
Music Retailers

John Massons Music Centre
1513 Logan Road
Mt Gravatt QLD 4122
Phone: (07) 3349 2006
www.massonmusic.com

Animato Violins
5/789 Kingsford Smith Drive
Eagle Farm QLD 4009
Phone: (07) 3876 3877
www.animato.com.au

Music Express
2048 Logan Road
Upper Mt Gravatt QLD 4122
Phone: (07) 3849 7088
www.musicexpress.com.au

Vivace Music
62 Pinelands Road
Sunnybank Hills QLD 4109
(07) 3344 1880
www.vivacemusic.com.au

Instruments

There are many instruments available, both new and second hand.
PLEASE DISCUSS YOUR CHOICE FIRST EITHER WITH THE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC
TEACHER OR A REPUTABLE INSTRUMENT REPAIRER.