



MONTMORENCY
SECONDARY COLLEGE

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC HANDBOOK

2021



Pride in Achievement

Welcome to Instrumental Music at Montmorency Secondary College. This handbook provides information to help both student and parents understand what is being offered to support your son's/daughter's music development. Through commitment and practice it is hoped that you achieve your musical goals.

The Instrumental Program at Montmorency offers excellent quality tuition for keen and committed students in any year level. We hope that your involvement in the program will be fulfilling and enjoyable.

AIMS OF THE INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM

The aim of the instrumental program is the development of the student's musical, social and personal awareness through participation in the College's Instrumental Program through music instruction, ensembles, rehearsals and performances.

Catering for beginning and advanced musicians, the College provides tuition in instruments by professional instrumental teachers.

It is not seen as an end in itself but rather as something that will add significantly to the quality of life both now at school and later in life. Students will be encouraged to participate in the various Montmorency College ensembles to experience the joys of music making and to stimulate their interest in music.

Music at Montmorency:

- is participatory
- integrates listening, performing and music literacy
- promotes both individual and social aspects of music-making
- develops creative thinking and personal responsibility
- is fun and challenging



INSTRUMENTS TAUGHT AT MONTMORENCY

Specialist Instrumental Teachers provide tuition for the following instruments:

Woodwind :	Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone
Brass :	Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, French Horn
Strings :	Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass
Other :	Bass Guitar, Percussion and Drum Kit

Private teacher lessons are also offered within the school for:

- Piano
- Guitar
- Voice



LESSONS

Lessons are held during the school day. Lessons are usually provided in small groups for 30 minutes each week. Individual lessons may also occur depending on the student's level of skill and student groupings.

Lessons are timetable on a rotating basis in order to minimise disruption to the student's school day. Lesson timetables are displayed at the start of each term on the Instrumental noticeboard outside the Auditorium.

It is the student's responsibility to *check the timetable before lessons*, and to *remember* their lesson time.

Students are expected to attend all lessons on time and bring all tutor books, music and instruments to each lesson. If a student is unable to attend a lesson for any genuine reason, such as a test or excursion, they must advise their instrumental music teacher or the Music Coordinator.

Students must practice. *"You don't have to practice on the days you don't eat."*
Schinichi Suzuki

These words illustrate the importance of practice. To be successful on one's chosen instrument, regular practice is essential.

Parental support is important to ensure students are encouraged and adhere to a routine. A 15-30 minute period of practice is recommended for beginners and this time frame will gradually extend as the student's expertise and repertoire increase.

SCHOOL ENSEMBLES & PERFORMANCES

Students learning a musical instrument participate in an ensemble appropriate for their ability and instrument as soon as they are able. Playing in an ensemble is the means through which the social and interactive nature of playing is developed; it is an essential aspect of being a musician. A firm student commitment is required for these groups, with students expected to maintain a commitment to attend all rehearsals and performances until the end of Term 4.

Montmorency Secondary College conducts a number of ensembles during the course of the year, including:

- Vocal Group
- Jazz/Stage Bands
- Concert Bands
- Guitar Ensembles
- String Ensembles
- Woodwind Choir
- Percussion Ensembles
- Production Band
- Various Small Groups

Performance opportunities include school assemblies, end of semester concerts, primary school tours, school occasions, community events and Arts Alive Concert.

REMEMBER: Being a member of a Band is participating in the ultimate team sport! To create music successfully as a group, every single player has an important role to play.



WHY LEARN AN INSTRUMENT?

Studies have shown that learning an instrument has many wonderful secondary benefits:

- Helps make new friends
- Increases memory skills
- Teaches perseverance
- Creates a sense of achievement
- Improves academic results
- Creates responsibility
- Develops time management
- Nurtures self-expression
- Improves listening skills
- Develops concentration
- Helps to relieve stress



INSTRUMENT HIRE OR PURCHASE

A limited number of instruments are available for hire for \$185 from the Music Department. After the first year of learning students are encouraged to purchase their own instrument if possible.

Students are expected to take care of hired instruments and return them in the same condition they received them (excepting general wear and tear). The instruments should not be used by other family members who do not know how to look after the instrument appropriately.

Students are to **clearly name** their instrument case to assist with identification in a crowded storeroom.

🎵 Students who are beginning **percussion/drum kit** lessons are not expected to own a drum kit for up to the first two years

It is generally recommended that students hire for no longer than one year if they are intending to continue learning in order to make the College instruments available for new students. Should a large number of students continue hiring, the program could be seriously restricted. Parents wishing to purchase an instrument should seek guidance from their teacher. While there are many cheap, new instruments being sold on sites like eBay and shops, they can be a student's nightmare. Brand names count. Cheap brands lack the build quality, ergonomics, playability, tuning, tone, and serviceability of quality brands. **A reputable brand second-hand instrument is usually a better option than a lower priced new instrument.**

MUSIC FEES

🎵 General Year Levy:	\$200	(not payable by 'private' teacher lessons: Piano, Voice and Guitar)
🎵 Beginner book:	\$20	for beginner students only
🎵 Hire Fee:	\$185	only if hire of an instrument is needed
🎵 Percussion pack:	\$100	only for drum students (sticks, practice pad, books)

🎵 Piano, Guitar and Voice lessons: \$35 per 30min individual lesson, invoiced per term by the teacher. Group lessons are available for guitar. An annual ensemble levy of \$44 is payable to the school.



UNIFORMS

Performance uniforms for the College are:

- 🎵 Long sleeved black button up shirt
- 🎵 Long black pants – not leggings – or skirt and black stockings
- 🎵 Black shoes with black socks

EXIT POLICY

- 🎵 Instrumental Music is expected to be a year-long commitment.
- 🎵 If cancellation of tuition must be made, 4 weeks notice in writing must be given to the Music Co-ordinator.

HOW TO ENROL IN THE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Expression of Interest form : <https://forms.gle/6ZKECz4N7X8NgaJo9>

New Students

- submit an *Expression of Interest* form at the commencement of the school year

Use the link indicated above to complete the *Expression of Interest* form online or one can be collected from the general office. There will be an information evening in February where parents and students will have the opportunity to speak with the instrumental teachers and ask any further questions before submitting the Expression of Interest form.

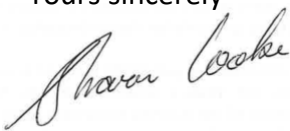
Students with prior experience

Students who have already been learning an instrument before coming to our college are able to apply to continue lessons at their current skill level. These lessons can commence in the first full week of school. Please fill in the 'Expression of Interest' form (see link given above) with the appropriate details of music level achieved.

Students who **learn outside the school** are encouraged to participate in school ensembles. This will help strengthen student's personal abilities and create a network of new friends. Enquiries can be directed to the Music Coordinator, Sharon Cooke at sharon.cooke@education.vic.gov.au with details of the students instrument, years of learning and playing level, to receive advise about the ensemble opportunities available.

We hope you will consider having your child participate in the 2021 Instrumental Music Program.

Yours sincerely



Sharon Cooke
Music Co-ordinator

