

MANLY VALE

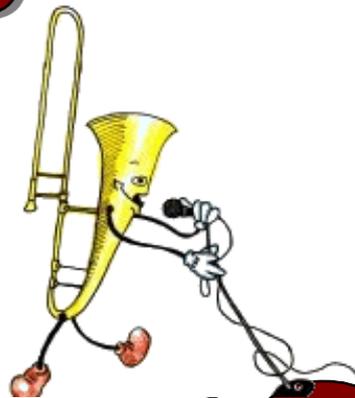
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INFORMATION



HANDBOOK



Manly Vale Public School Band

Program Information Booklet

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Welcome to Manly Vale Public School Band Program. This booklet provides important information about the school band program for you and your child. In particular it provides an overview of:

- how the school band program works;
- the expectations of band membership;
- your parental role in the program; and
- the expected costs for band membership, instruments and tuition.

By understanding how the program works you will be helping your child in their musical development and the continued growth of the Manly Vale Band Program.

Band Aims

The Manly Vale Band Program aims to provide the environment and opportunity for as many children as possible to enjoy and achieve in music, producing a team spirit, positive self-esteem and pride in Manly Vale Public School.

Band Objectives

The main objectives are to:

- encourage the participation of as many children as possible;
- enable children to enjoy music and play music for other people's enjoyment;
- teach children to play music in an ensemble and encourage team spirit;
- provide performance experience, building confidence and self-esteem;
- introduce and develop an appreciation for a wide variety of music;
- widen the students' scope for communication, expression and exploration through music.

Organisation of the Band Activities

The Manly Vale School Band Program puts an emphasis on:
Commitment, Enjoyment, Motivation and Support.

School Music Committee

There is a Music Committee of interested and supportive parents, whose responsibilities include the administration of the band program. We are looking for

new members to join in the new year. Committee meetings are held once a term on a Monday night at 7pm.

Band Liaisons

Miss Kate Stacey (Senior Band) and Ms Hannah Taylor (Junior Band) are the current teacher band liaisons within the school.

Musical Director / Conductor

The Director of the musical development program and Conductor of the Manly Vale Senior Band is Ben Dickson. Carlos Villanueva is the Conductor of the Manly Vale Junior Band.

Instruments

Instruments will need to be hired or purchased by parents for the students' use. Only a few instruments have been purchased by the committee and will be made available for hire.

The Band Program

Manly Vale School currently has two bands. The Junior Band is a two year tenure with students progressing to Senior Band when their skill set and musicianship reaches a certain standard.

Junior Band

Conductor: Carlos Villanueva

The Junior Band is the ideal opportunity for the students to become confident with their new instruments in an environment that is both supportive and fun.

All new band members will initially be placed in the Junior Band and be provided the opportunity to progress to the Senior Band depending on their ability.

The Junior Band rehearses twice a week: Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 7.45 - 8.45am.

Please note: Students are required to arrive at 7:35 to set up for a 7:45 start.

Senior Band

Conductor: Ben Dickson

This band will consist of the current members of the Manly Vale School Band that have participated in the band program throughout 2018 and have been invited to join Senior Band. It is envisaged that the band will develop a broader repertoire of concert pieces with an increased degree of difficulty and complexity. They will also be our role models and support for younger players.

The Senior Band rehearses twice a week: Monday and Wednesday mornings at 7.45 - 8.45am.

Please note: Students are required to arrive at 7:35 to set up for a 7:45 start.

Band Camp

An integral part of the band program and the musical development of the students is a weekend Band Camp held at a local venue. Tutors attend the camp and provide intensive tuition in addition to the band practices. It is a time of great musical growth and promotes teamwork within the band.

It is important that all band members make a commitment to this most valuable weekend. This means attending the camp for the entire duration and cancelling Saturday morning sport or any other weekend activities.

Additional Band Activities

As children progress to the Senior Band they will be expected to participate in band competitions and public performances. In the past they have played in The Yamaha Festival, Northern Beaches Instrumental Festival, NSSWE, at local kindergartens, local retirement villages, Warringah Mall, the Corso at Manly, tours of regional NSW and the Central Coast and school functions.

How to Join the Band

Membership of the band is open to all students currently in Years 2-5. Before applying for a place in the band program, parents and children should be aware of their responsibilities as part of the band program.

Recruitment for new Junior Band members start in Term 3. In this term, a band information night is held for interested parents and students. The date will be announced in the Bush Telegraph.

Registering your child

In Term 3, interested parents and student can apply to join the Junior Band. Our aim is to get all interested students setup with an instrument, band bag and tutor in Term 4 so that their transition into a band environment is smooth. Therefore it is important to get your application in by the deadline.

Choosing an Instrument

In your application to join the School Band Program we ask your child to nominate their preferred instruments. Please let us know if you already have an instrument at home or if your child is already learning an instrument. The conductors will take this into consideration when allocating instruments. However there are no guarantees that your child will be allocated this instrument, as it is vital to have a balanced band.

Whilst we try to accommodate student preferences, it is highly likely that students do not get allocated their first choice of instrument. Some students have traits or attributes better suited to certain instruments. We therefore run Instrument Allocation Tests and Coordination Tests for percussion in Term 3 to help determine the best instrument for your child to play. A suitable instrument will, in the long term, provide a more satisfying musical development.

Naturally some instruments are more popular than others so we encourage you and your child to:

- register your student's interest early;
- talk to current band members playing the selected instruments;
- consider and discuss a range of instruments with your child; and
- nominate a selection of preferred instruments

Woodwind and Brass

Flutes, clarinets, trumpets, saxophones, trombones, baritones and French horns will need to be hired or purchased from an outside source.

Read more on this in the booklet for options to hire or to purchase.

Percussion

Untuned percussion (drums) and tuned percussion, including xylophone and glockenspiel, will be a part of the band in 2019. The school's drum set is used for band practice, tutorials and band performances. For this facility drummers will be charged an annual usage fee.

Drummers will also need to purchase a practice pad and a pair of drumsticks for home use. The percussion tutor will indicate the size of the sticks to be purchased. It is desirable that percussionists have their own drum kit by the time they have developed their playing to Senior Band level.

Bass instruments

Bass instruments such as trombone, French horn and baritone are vital to the development and sound of the band. Competent players of these instruments are much sought after and a welcome addition to school and other bands.

Purchase, Hire and/or Usage

All children are encouraged to purchase their own instruments, as it leads to a greater commitment to their instrument and the band. Good quality instruments are an investment and hold their value over many years.

Whilst there are many reputable brands on the market, we recommend Yamaha student instruments because they are well made, hold their value and spare parts are readily available through local music shops.

Good second hand instruments can be purchased through the Trading Post, E-Bay, Gumtree or in music shops. For second hand purchases we recommend that you have the instrument checked out by a qualified musician before purchase. Below are some useful contacts:

Music Corp: Tel: 9467 4900 or 1300 858 911; 47 Hume St,

Crows Nest Mall Music: Tel: 9905 6966; Shop 430 Warringah

Mall Brookvale

Arts Unit: <https://www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/instrument-hire>

Options other than purchasing an instrument

You may wish to start your child's musical development by hiring an instrument. The suppliers noted above have various instrument hire arrangements available which can include rental/ purchase options.

We also have certain instruments available to hire through the school and priority for these instruments is given to new members of the Junior Band. The instruments available to hire through the school are:

- 4 Saxophones
- 1 Trumpet
- 4 French Horns
- 4 Trombones
- 2 Baritones

The school requires a \$150 bond for the hire of any instrument at the start of hire. This bond is fully refundable at the end of the hire period.

The hire period is from Term 4 of the current year until the end of Term 3 the following year.

A termly hire fee of \$100 is subsequently required, along with band fees, in terms 1, 2 and 3 of new year.

A total of \$300 hire fee per year, along with \$150 refundable bond.

Please note: In Term 4 of the following year, priority for hire of instruments will then automatically pass to new Junior Band members.

Learning to Play

Tutorials are an integral part of the Band Program and all students are required to attend a 30 minute weekly tuition session for their allocated instrument. It is the responsibility of the parent to employ a tutor for your child. Tutorials should be organised *outside school hours* for both Junior and Senior Band members.

Tutorials – a Parent’s Guide - Booking and the Scheduling

To receive a list of recommended tutors from the Music Committee, parents are asked to complete the appropriate section of the instrument acceptance form.

The instrument acceptance form will be provided to you with a letter of offer to participate in the Junior Band. A list of recommended tutors will be provided.

Parents are to negotiate a suitable time for their child’s tutorials directly with the tutor.

Expected Fees and Payments

Various fees are involved in the band program. It will be helpful to you and the administrators if you understand what they are and how they apply. In summary fees are payable to:

- the Music committee for payment of various band expenses (all members);
- the Music committee for Band camp (all band members attending camp and the camp fees are part of the band term fees);
- the Music committee for hire of instruments (members hiring from the school);
- your child's tutor for individual lessons and tutoring.

Band Fees

Band expenses include fees for the band conductor, expenses incurred in buying and photocopying music, purchasing band books and folders, and replacing equipment.

At the beginning of each term band members will receive from the Band Committee a request for payment of band fees. These fees are to cover the costs of conductors and other band expenditures for the term.

Band fees are set by the Music Committee and are reviewed annually. The expected band fees are \$230 for Junior Band and \$240 for Senior Band per term. The difference in fees is simply that Junior Band will spend only one night at Band Camp whilst Senior Band spend the two nights.

Band fees are adjusted down when the Band Camp does not include overnight stays.

Band Camp Fees

Band camp fees are included in the term band fees. These fees are to cover the costs of accommodation, conductors, tutorials and other band expenditure for the camp.

Band Camp may or may not include overnight stays.

Instrument Usage Fees

Instrument usage fees apply to a limited number of instruments such as percussion or drums where the band members are using school equipment in addition to their own equipment at home such as drums kits etc.

At the beginning of each term, where applicable, band members will receive a request for payment of instrument usage fees from the music committee. These fees are to cover the cost of hire and maintenance of the instrument for the term.

Payment of Tutorial Fees

The rate for tutorials is to be discussed and arranged with your tutor. The normal rate is usually approximately \$35.00 per 30 minute tutorial. These fees are for the tutorials only and are paid directly to the tutor. This is not organised through the school.

Summary of Expected Fees and Expenses

The following table is provided to assist you to estimate the expected total fees and expenses for your child dependent on the choice of instrument and how you plan to purchase or hire the selected instrument. The following prices are based on the 2018 school year and are to be used as a guide only.

Description	Number of	Each	Amount
Band Fees (whole year paid in three instalments)	3	\$230	\$690
Tutorials	37	\$35	\$1295
		Sub Total	\$1955
Instrument hire			
Instrument purchase			

Band FAQs

Will my child be offered a place in the band?

The School Band Program is seen as an important part of Manly Vale School activities and the development of students. All interested children will be offered a place in the band program.

In the week after applications are received, the Instrument Allocation test will take place for all applicants to assist in the selection of suitable instruments. Each child's preference of instrument will be considered before places are offered. Letters of offer will be sent to all applicants in September.

What should I expect from my child and their music lessons?

Your child should learn the basic skills and techniques required to play their selected instrument. This will include the ability to read and play music (not to be confused with playing by ear).

Your child should enjoy their music lessons and enjoy playing their chosen instrument. Naturally the level of enjoyment and satisfaction each child gains depends to a certain extent on their commitment to a regular practice routine.

How much practice is required at home?

Initially small amounts of regular practice are necessary (5-10 minutes five times per week). This will gradually increase to longer periods as your child improves.

A regular practice routine ensures that your child will steadily improve in their playing. Don't expect miracles overnight and give lots of praise if it has been a good practice session.

Always check the homework requirements in your child's notebook. This notebook can also be used as a way to communicate with the tutor. The tutor will advise you as to which type of notebook is required.

How much Band practice is involved at school?

Two band practices a week will develop your child's musicianship and band participation.

Whilst the band work will initially be fairly easy, students should never underestimate the little things they will be learning - accurate counting, listening to the band as a whole and watching the conductor.

Band skills are additional to learning their instruments and imperative to the development of the band as a whole. Missing band practice will hold back the development of the entire band.

Can my child leave the program if they don't like it?

Children entering the band program need to understand they are making a commitment to themselves and the school band. The commitment to the band is expected for a minimum of one year.

If your child is unhappy with their musical development or their role in the band please discuss it with the Conductor and the Band Liaison Teacher as the problem may be easily solved.

As the Conductor's fees are based on the number of children in the band, in the exceptional case where a child does choose to withdraw from the band program mid-semester, full term band fees will be charged.

Parents are expected to complete a form requesting to leave the band and Mrs Lee or Miss Stacey will conduct an exit interview.

