



ERSKINEVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL

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ERSKINEVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL BAND INFORMATION HANDBOOK - 2021

The Band program at Erskineville Public School provides an opportunity for all students in Years 3 to 6 to experience the world of making music as an ensemble. The program has developed into an exciting chance for children to participate in an enjoyable and rewarding musical experience.

Being part of a band can provide children with skills that will last a lifetime. In addition to the obvious musical benefits, children playing an instrument in a band benefit socially, physically and often academically. Children learn valuable team skills, and above all, have fun!

Just a few of the benefits for children are:

- learning music improves concentration and memory,
- music provides an avenue for creativity and self-expression,
- children can meet new friends in different year levels,
- children learn self-discipline, organisation, and how to cooperate with others,
- working towards a common goal as a team, improving self-esteem and confidence.

This information booklet is designed to provide you with an overview of our Band Program, in particular the significant changes which will come into effect as of 2021. Before joining the school band, parents and children should be aware of the associated commitments, responsibilities and costs. Understanding how the program works, the expectations of band membership and your role in the process, will help us to maintain our high standards and make participation in the band an enjoyable experience for all. Please refer to this booklet should you be unsure of any of the operational procedures of the band program.

Our Ensembles

Training Band

Training Band involves mostly students in their first year of band. Anyone in Year 3 and above can join. Students undergo an Instrument Suitability Test during Term 4 prior to the year they wish to begin Training Band. All Training Band students are beginners on their instruments and there is no prerequisite for musical training. It provides a great opportunity for the students to become competent on their instruments in an environment that is both supportive and fun. Students may remain in the Training Band for more than one year if they are unable to acquire the prerequisite skills of the Intermediate Band. Students successful in gaining entry to the Training Band are expected to maintain a regular practice regime, be prompt to rehearsals, and behave appropriately at all times.

Intermediate Band

Intermediate Band is comprised of students with at least one year of experience on their band instrument. Students may spend anywhere between 1-3 years in this ensemble. Students successful in gaining entry to the Intermediate Band are expected to maintain a regular practice regime, be prompt to rehearsals, and behave appropriately at all times.

Concert Band

Concert Band is our flagship performing ensemble. It consists of students who are proficient on their instrument and committed to further improvement. Entry to the Concert Band is by audition in Term 4. Tutors will supply Intermediate Band students with advanced notice of what they must be able to do to pass this audition. Students successful in gaining entry to the Concert Band are expected to maintain a regular practice regime, be prompt to rehearsals, and behave appropriately at all times. Participants who are continually unable to meet these expectations may be moved to Intermediate Band.

Program Structure

All students involved in the band program must undertake one private instrument lesson (approx 30 mins) and one whole band rehearsal on a weekly basis (10 weeks per term).

Private Lessons

Private lessons will replace group tutorials as of 2021. Private instrument lessons will be offered each afternoon after school and some mornings before school. Alternatively, you may source your own tutor and organise your child's private instrument lessons at a time and location convenient to you.

Private instrument lessons allow one-on-one attention for your child to learn correct technique and provide individual-specific attention, in addition to having greater accountability for

maintaining a regular practise routine and having the ability to pursue individual interests beyond band repertoire.

On-site private lessons will take place from 3:10 — 5:40pm throughout the week. All administrative queries, including requesting changing lesson times will need to be done directly through the tutor.

If your child attends after school care on-site, please note that tutors **will** be able to sign students in and out while they are at after school care.

Tutor	Instrument	Email	Phone
Olivia Ormonde	Saxophone	livormo@gmail.com	0488 697 710
Emily McKnight	Flute	erkomuso@gmail.com	0412 847 136
Jemma Bartlett	Saxophone/ Clarinet	jemma.r.bartlett@gmail.com	0409 393 453
Alex Jasprizza	Clarinet	alex.jasprizza@gmail.com	0430 723 595
Koominka Logan	Trumpet	koominka@gmail.com	0459 219 463
Brendan Paul	Percussion	brendankpaul@gmail.com	0437 992 245
Samantha O'Toole	Flute	samjadeotoole@gmail.com	0420 699 280

Rehearsals

Whole band rehearsals are where children will learn to play as part of a larger ensemble.

It is imperative that students arrive on time for rehearsals after school. Students who arrive late miss out on important warm-up activities that are fundamental to the mastery of their instrument. There is also an expectation that students behave in accordance with school rules during rehearsals.

All band members are part of a team and are expected to commit to attending all rehearsals and performances. If your child is unable to attend a rehearsal or performance, please advise Emily McKnight or the school as soon as possible.

Band will recommence in week 3, term 1 2021.

Full Band rehearsals take place straight after school from 3:10 - 4:10pm in the Lucy Woodcock Hall and are held on the following days:

Training Band - Tuesday 3:10 - 4:10pm
Intermediate Band - Wednesday 3:10 - 4:10pm
Concert Band - Thursday 3:10 - 4:10pm

Important Band dates are communicated via Enews, the school website and the new Band Database, which will be launched next year. Please ensure you are subscribed to the Band Enews channel.

Fees

Rehearsal Fees:

Rehearsal fees cost **\$400 annually**. This is to cover the cost of the conductors, administrative costs and extra costs involved in having conductors attend performances and auditions.

Rehearsal fees are to be paid upfront per semester, ie. twice a year. Fees for Semester 1 are due by the end of the second week of Term 1, and fees for Semester 2 are due by the end of the second week of Term 3. Invoices will be issued by the Band Coordinator and fees will be paid

These fees are essential to the continuation and success of the program. Payment of fees is compulsory, and students may not attend rehearsals until fees are paid in full. If you are unable to pay band fees on time, please contact the band program coordinator to make alternative arrangements.

If a student no-longer wishes to continue in the band program for any reason they may only do so at the end of each semester. There will be no refunds for students/families who decide to leave during the semester.

The Band program is externally managed and as such, parents and carers are able to utilise the NSW Creative Kids vouchers. For more information, please visit the Creative Kids website <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-creative-kids-voucher>

Private Lesson Fees:

The school will no longer collect tutorial fees. Instead, fees for private lessons will be paid directly to your child's tutor at their set rate. A 30 minute lesson will usually cost around \$40, but please note that this is not a guaranteed cost.

Other fees are listed below:

Band Starter Pack - one off payment at the commencement of Band (this includes Band bag, Band books and photocopying throughout Band) \$50

Band shirt - purchased from the office - \$10

Communication

SchoolNews App is the primary communication channel for updates about the music program, notification of events, and communication regarding weekly rehearsals.

It is expected that band families subscribe to the MUSIC section of the SchoolNews App. This is not something the school administration staff can do for you. There is also a regular section in the school newsletter providing band news.

Registering your child in one of the bands or ensembles automatically gives the Music Committee consent to add your child's name, school year and class and your contact details to the MySchoolMusic database used by the Music Committee and the Band Parents to run the Program.

Instruments

For more information regarding instruments in our Band program please view this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EiDovR-unKc&feature=youtu.be>

Instrument Hire

All Band instruments will need to be sourced by families whether they are purchased, hired or borrowed, as instrument hire is not provided by the school or Band Coordinator.

If you would like to hire an instrument, we recommend hiring through the Arts Unit, which is overseen by the Department of Education.

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

Commitment & Expectations

Once children have committed to playing in the band, they must honour that commitment throughout the school year. The band is like any other team – it needs all its members to function successfully.

Students participating in the band must uphold the school rules and values during instrument lessons, band rehearsals and when attending performances. Each child enrolled in Band will sign a Behaviour Contract at the beginning of the year to acknowledge the expectations and commitment. Disruptive behaviour detracts from the experience of all band members and can

lead to bands progressing slower than desirable. Misbehaviour will not be tolerated and will lead to disciplinary action in accordance with the Band Behaviour Policy and Behaviour Contract. Tutors and conductors may also choose issue time-outs to students who are disrupting rehearsals.

Students who continue to disrupt band tutorials and rehearsals may not be considered for promotion to Intermediate or Concert band, or may be asked to leave the program.