

An invitation to join the WRPS Instrumental Program in 2024

Your child has expressed an interest in learning a musical instrument. This document is designed to assist you with making an informed decision when engaging with the Wyrallah Road Public School (WRPS) Instrumental Program.

WRPS supports the inclusion of instrumental tuition in your child's development, by providing an in-school instrumental program aimed at making lessons more accessible, more affordable and to build strong connections between the school, tutors and community opportunities.

There is much research to suggest that learning an instrument assists in developing language skills, social skills and executive brain function. Whilst all students at WRPS access an in-class general music program, the instrumental program provides opportunities for deeper understanding and the opportunity to specialise in a specific skill set, instrument and ensemble area.

How does the Instrumental Program work?

There are two main parts to our instrumental program – instrumental lessons and ensemble participation.

Instrumental Lessons

Instrumental lessons are conducted weekly, at the school, in small groups or individually. The program is run in conjunction with the Northern Rivers Conservatorium and Arts Centre Music In Schools (MIS) Program, who supply experienced, professional tutors to conduct the lessons. **Students will also be required to enrol in the Conservatorium MIS program online to complete the enrolment process, however, please do not complete this enrolment until you are provided further details by the school.**

Lessons will be 30 minutes long. They will be organised on a rotating basis to minimise students' out of class time and ensure they do not miss the same part of a lesson each week.

Tuition is available for the following instruments:

Trumpet Trombone Violin Cello Flute Saxophone Clarinet

Places in the program are limited by time, space and instrument availability.

Students participating in instrumental lessons will be expected to contribute to the school community by also participating in the ensemble program.

All participating students, including continuing students, will be required to sign a Contract of Commitment to secure their acceptance into this program.

Classroom teachers will also be consulted about the acceptance of children into the program.

Ensemble Program

All students learning an instrument at school will be expected to participate in one or more of our instrumental ensembles after 3 terms of tuition, if not before. This will require them to commit to practicing at home and establishing a base level of proficiency to assist with their positive transition in the ensemble program.

It is expected that ensembles available throughout 2024 will include a Beginner Band, Concert Band and String Ensemble.

Program Costs

Lesson Fees (Prices shown are accurate as of Dec. 2023 and are subject to change)

Small group Lessons	\$17 per week
Individual Lessons	\$34 per week
Registration Fee	\$27 annually

Lesson costs are invoiced to families directly by the Conservatorium each term. Please do not send tuition fees to the school – they must be paid directly to Conservatorium. An annual registration fee is included with the first invoice each year.

Should you require the use of a school instrument, you will also incur hire fees. These fees are payable directly to the school in a discounted lump sum at the beginning of the year (\$77) or termly (\$22) at the start of each school term. Please see the Instrumental Hire section for more information.

Fee Assistance

Families are also invited to use the Creative Kids Voucher to offset the cost of lesson. Please apply for your voucher through Service NSW and contact the Conservatorium as to how to best redeem this \$100 voucher.

Also, each year our generous P&C offer a small number of subsidies to students engaged in the instrumental program. Subsidies are intended for students who, without financial help, could not make a sustained commitment to taking music lessons and applications are open to both new and continuing students. Please see Ms Hart for an application.

Information and Communication

Students will receive a Practice Diary at the beginning of each term. This contains useful information regarding the Conservatorium and the MIS program, MIS Conditions of Enrolment, useful musical terms and space for the tutors to provide practice notes and information for students. There will also be space for students to record the practice they do at home and an area for parents and students to communicate with and record questions for the tutor. Parents are asked to check this diary regularly to ensure their child is recording their practice accurately and to check for messages from the tutor.

Further to this, it is important that parents provide their most accessible email address when completing the online Expression of Interest form as this address will be used by the school, especially in notifying you of your child being accepted into the program and throughout the setup of the program in the new year.

Lesson Timetables

Lesson timetables are prepared at the beginning of each term by the Conservatorium. These timetables are available on the Conservatorium website. Please check throughout the term for the most current timetable. Timetables are prepared on a rotating basis to ensure students do not miss the same part of their lesson or break time each week. Reminding your child of their lesson before they come to school (especially at the beginning of the year) is helpful in establishing the lesson routine.

Each term the school notifies the Conservatorium of school-based interruptions to instrumental lessons. This is taken into account when preparing the timetables and **families will not be invoiced for a lesson that has been notified by the school as being missed for school reasons** (eg. excursions, sports carnivals etc). Sometimes a timetable may need to be altered on the day to allow for small, unforeseen **school-based** interruptions. The most current timetable for the day will be posted on the board under the shelter. Students are reminded at morning assembly to check this timetable and let their classroom teacher know what time they need to go to their lesson. Please understand, it is not the teacher's responsibility to remind students – students need to be responsible for their own learning and respectfully excuse themselves from

class when it is time to leave for their lesson. Similarly, students need to respectfully re-enter their classroom after their lesson and ensure they follow-up with their teacher to find out what they missed whilst out of class.

For missed lessons arising from personal/family reasons, please refer to the Conservatorium MIS Conditions of Enrolment.

Withdrawal from the program

Learning an instrument takes time and will take practice and commitment. Please help your child to understand that it will take several months, with regular practice, to make music on their instrument and this should be considered when signing up to the Instrumental Program. We expect students and families to commit to at least 12 months in the program to give students the best chance of achieving success.

Once commenced, should there be reason to leave the program, parents are required to notify Ms Hart in writing. Further to this, the conservatorium requires, as a condition of enrolment, two (2) weeks advance notice in writing of withdrawal from the program. This respectfully allows tutors to prepare for alterations to their personal income, timetables to be adjusted and new students to be invited into the program to assist with the longevity of this important program within our school.

Application Process

Once you have read and understood the information set out in this document, and you would like to proceed with an application to the instrumental program, please ensure you complete the following steps.

ALL students:

1. Discuss with your child the instrument(s) they would like to learn and the commitment it will take.
2. Read and agree to ALL terms of the Contract of Commitment contained in this booklet.
3. Email the WRPS Music Programs Coordinator at Emma.Hart19@det.nsw.edu.au to request a link to the EOI form.
4. Complete form provided.
5. **Once your application has been accepted** you will be provided a further link to complete the Northern Rivers Conservatorium, Music In Schools enrolment process online (www.nrcac.edu.au)

Please understand that taking the above steps does not guarantee a place in the program and families will be notified by email once a place has been secured (please provide an email address you check frequently). No family will be invoiced by the Conservatorium for lessons until the commencement of lessons.

If you have any points you would like to clarify, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Hart at the school on 6621 3363 or via email emma.hart19@det.nsw.edu.au

Instrumental Program Contract of Commitment

Expectations of Students:

- I will care for and maintain my instrument.
- I will practice at least 10 minutes (beginners) to 30 minutes (by Term 4) per day, 5 days a week.
- I will bring all my equipment (tutor book, pencil, eraser, music folder and instrument), and arrive on time, to all lessons and rehearsals.
- I will become a member of the Concert Band or String Ensemble when I have reached the required standard.
- I will attend all Concert Band or String Ensemble rehearsals, performances and concerts.

Parent Responsibilities:

- I will show an interest in, support & encourage my child's instrumental study and progress.
- I will provide a suitable time and place for my child to practice.
- I will supervise and encourage regular, good practice habits and sign my child's practice record chart each week.
- I will pay ALL music fees, associated with participation in the program, on time.
- I will supply instrument accessories such as a music stand for practice, tutor book, reeds, strings, shoulder rests, etc. by the 2nd week of school for my child to commence lessons and replace these as needed.
- I will keep the instrument in good repair and provide my child with a safe place to keep the instrument.
- I will return any instrument in need of repair to the school.
- I will immediately report to the school any loss or damage of the instrument on loan.
- I agree to accept financial responsibility for loss of or damage to the instrument while on loan from the school.
- After a period of 2 years, I agree to buy my child his/her own instrument if new students require a hire instrument.
- I will ensure that my child attends all lessons, rehearsals, performances and concerts.
- I agree to provide my child with the correct performance uniform for Concert Band and String Ensemble.
- If, at any time, our family is not able to meet any of these commitments, we will call and discuss this with Ms Hart in order to make alternative arrangements.

N.B. The school strongly recommends that the parent or caregiver take out appropriate house and contents insurance to cover the instrument at all times while it is away from the school, including during transit and at performance venues.

Instrument Hire

Wyrallah Road Public School has a small number of instruments available for hire to our students. This is aimed at assisting families in accessing the program **initially**. After a period of two years, families are expected to purchase their own instruments to allow the school instruments to be made available to new students. Should families have any concerns with this, please do not hesitate to speak with Ms Hart in order ensure we do our best to maximise student access to instruments.

Instruments available for hire include:-

Violin Trumpet Trombone Cello Clarinet Saxophone

Instrument hire is available subject to agreement with the following contract conditions and in conjunction with the conditions set out in the Contract of Commitment signed on application to the program.

Some instruments require ongoing maintenance throughout the hire term and this is the responsibility of students and families. All instruments are provided serviced and in working order. Extra servicing or repairs will need to be paid for by families. Please also be aware that some instruments incur small ongoing costs [replacement reeds and neck straps (clarinet/saxophone), strings (violin, cello) oils and creams (brass instruments), cleaning cloths (all instruments)] that will need to be covered by families.

Before completing a Hire Application, please read the following Instrument Hire Conditions carefully and ensure your child also understands each point.

Instrument Hire Conditions

1. Term hire fee of \$22 is due Week 2 each term (or full year fee of \$77 by Week 3 Term 1).
2. The student must be receiving consistent tuition on their instrument at school.
3. **The student must practice consistently** each week in line with recommendations from their tutor.
4. The instruments should only be played by the student it has been loaned to.
5. The student will become part of the school ensemble program when they have developed the necessary skills.
6. The instrument will be treated with care, as per the care requirements provided with the instrument and/or by the tutor. The cost of this care, if any, will be covered by the student's family (eg. replacement strings, valve oil, reeds, cork grease, slide cream, cleaning equipment, harnesses – where required).
7. Should damages occur as a result of mishandling, the student will be liable for the repair or replacement of the instrument.
8. Any loss of instrument or accessories, the student will be liable for the replacement of the instrument and/or accessories.
9. The instrument and accessories provided remain, at all times, the property of Wyrallah Road Public School.

Please note: Families looking to purchase an instrument for their child should consult Ms Hart at school and the child's tutor in order to ensure they get the most out of their investment and avoid common pitfalls made when purchasing instruments both new and second hand.

N.B. The school strongly recommends that the parent or caregiver take out appropriate house and contents insurance to cover the instrument at all times while it is away from the school, including during transit and at performance venues.