



Co-Curricular Music

Handbook

2022



Welcome to Mt Maria's College Instrumental Music Program. This handbook provides information to help parents/caregivers understand what is being offered to support your child's music development. Whether your child is interested in trying out an instrument for the first time, wishes to continue lessons or has advanced musical skills and knowledge, our Music Instructors can adapt to every student's needs.

Please read the following information carefully and keep it for reference. If you wish to begin learning an instrument, please click [here](#) to enrol on-line. Feedback is important to us and you are invited to contact the Music Administrator, Mrs Michelle Downey, by emailing mdowney@bne.catholic.edu.au at any time.

Broad Aims of the Music Program

The aim of Mt Maria Music is to develop students' musical, social and personal awareness through participation in instrumental or vocal music instruction, ensembles, rehearsal and performance. Undertaking the study of music not only involves the learning of new skills, it also teaches important organisation and time management skills, as students are given the responsibility of managing their lesson timetables.

Students will be encouraged to participate in a wide variety of musical ensembles and activities, allowing them to experience the joys of music making and to stimulate their creativity. In addition to involvement in Sport, Music will enhance the academic life of each student during their time at Mt Maria.

Ensemble Program

It is an expectation of all students learning an instrument, that they participate in one or more of the ensembles relevant to their instrument.

Lessons available at Mt Maria

Tuition is available for students in the following specialities:

Strings	Woodwind	Brass	Other
Violin	Flute	Trumpet	Piano
Viola	Clarinet	French Horn	Voice
Cello	Saxophone	Trombone	Percussion
Double Bass		Euphonium	Music Theory
Acoustic Guitar		Tuba	
Electric Guitar			
Bass Guitar			



Enrolling in lessons

Ms Khafagi will be able to answer any questions, and direct you to the most suitable Music Instructor.

If a student wishes to discontinue lessons during the school year, the current term of lessons must be completed, and at least four weeks of notice given. Such notice of withdrawal should be stated in a letter to both the Music Instructor and to the Music Administrator, Mrs Michelle Downey (email mdowney@bne.catholic.edu.au). Where notice has not been given, it is expected that parents pay for lessons in the new term even if the student does not wish to partake in them. This allows the school to meet its contractual obligations with its visiting Music Instructors.

Lesson Structure

Students receive one lesson per week with a specialist Music Instructor of the student's chosen instrument. Lessons occur during regular school hours and students will be permitted to leave their regular scheduled class to attend lessons. These lessons are 30 minutes in duration and are delivered in either individual or group setting. Students learning in a group will be matched with other students of a similar standard. Group lessons are not available for piano students.

Students will attend lessons according to a rotating timetable to minimise the impact on any particular school subject. A timetable will be provided to students, detailing the lesson time for each week. Some lessons may be offered outside of class time at the Music Instructor's discretion – priority is given to students in Years 11 and 12, and those with diagnosed learning difficulties. It is the student's responsibility to know when their scheduled lesson for each week is. Students are expected to attend all lessons and bring all tutor books, music and instruments to each lesson.

If a student is unable to attend their instrumental lesson, they must advise the instrumental Music Instructor 24 hours in advance or in the case of illness, before 8.30am on the day of absence. In most cases, with prior notice, an alternative lesson time may be arranged in consultation with the Music Instructor. However, lessons missed without prior notice or an adequate excuse will incur the cost of the lesson and the Music Instructor will not be required to reschedule the lesson. Even when a student is absent on official College excursions, year-level camps or because of assessment, it is still vital that Music Instructor is contacted.

Tuition Fees

Payment for lessons is a private arrangement between visiting Music Instructors and the parent/caregiver. Lessons will be charged at the following rates:

Lesson Delivery	Cost per 30 minute lesson
Individual	\$36
Groups of 2*	\$25
Groups of 3*	\$18

*Not available for piano or vocal lessons, only available when students are of similar levels.



Year 7 Beginner band Program

Mt Maria offers a Year 7 Beginner Band Program. This program is open to about 30 Year 7 students each year who wish to begin learning a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument.

Lessons will be delivered in small groups (3-4) and charged at the reduced rate of \$10 per lesson through the parents' College Account. In addition to the lessons, there will be a weekly full band rehearsal. An instrument will be provided free of charge for the duration of this one-year program. At completion of this programme, students will have the chance to continue to learn their instruments and join the Wind Band.

Students are required to complete the full year of tuition and involvement.

The Year 7 Beginner Band Program is generously subsidised by the P&F Foundation.

Instruments

Mt Maria College has a loan scheme for a limited number of large instruments (eg. Tuba and Baritone Saxophone). Smaller school instruments are only made available to students involved in the Year 7 Beginner Band Program. Students are to provide their own instruments for lessons and it highly recommended that they are insured. Whilst at school, instruments are to be stored in instrument lockers upstairs in MK, or the Lavalla Storage room, as instructed. Should you require advice about buying or renting an instrument, please contact your relevant Music Instructor.

For a student to make progress and their musical journey, regular practice is essential. We ask that you assist us in the musical training of your child by ensuring that his or her instrument is taken home and that it is practised at least five times per week. Beginning students should start with about 10-15 minutes a day increasing to 20-30 minutes a day for intermediate students and up to 60 minutes a day for advanced students. A certain amount of practice must be performed regularly simply to maintain a level of ability. Simply put, if you don't practise, you go backwards!

Parents/caregivers should monitor their child's practice where practical. Effective practice occurs when:

A space is organised for practice away from distractions eg. television, people and pets

A set time is allocated for practice each day

Parents comment regularly on improvements in their child's playing no matter how small and refrain from making any disparaging remarks



Reporting Procedure

Instrumental Instructors will prepare individual Music Reports to be sent out at the end of each Semester. These are released through the Parent Portal.

Individual participation in external music examinations or competitions is encouraged and is entirely at the discretion of the student and parent/caregiver, in consultation with the Instrumental Instructor.

Performing Ensembles

At the time of writing, the following ensembles are available:

Ensemble	Conductor	Ensemble Type
College Choir (all welcome)	Ms Donna Langford	Core
Vocal Ensemble (by audition)	Ms Donna Langford	Extension
Concert Band (must be currently learning)	Ms Louise McGill	Core
Wind Band (Years 7-9) (must be currently learning)	Mr JP Cerdan	Core
Studio Band (by invitation)	Mr Matt Luff	Extension
Year 7 Beginner Band (must be currently learning)	Ms Louise McGill	Core
Mt Maria Strings (must be currently learning)	Mr Ben Adkins	Core
Chamber Strings (by invitation)	Student Led, mentored by Mr Ben Adkins	Extension
Guitar Ensemble (must be currently learning)	Mr Joseph Meyers	Core
Percussion Ensemble (percussion students only)	Mrs Alice Tilbury	Extension
Crash Bang Wallop (percussion) (all music students welcome)	Mrs Alice Tilbury	Community
Rock Bands (all welcome)	Student led, Supported by Senior Music Students	Community



Ensemble Requirements

There is an expectation that all students involved in music tuition at Mt Maria participate in a college ensemble. Ensembles rehearse once a week building a repertoire of material suitable for public performances. This enables students to progress on their instrument and allows for several performance opportunities to showcase their talents. Notices of major performances are marked in the school calendar and information about upcoming performances will be sent home and advertised in the College newsletter.

Those students excelling in their Core Ensembles may be invited to join an Extension Ensemble – they will remain in their Core Ensemble to develop leadership skills and assist other students.

Becoming a member of any Mt Maria Ensemble is a serious commitment for the whole year. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is compulsory. Students who are unable to attend must inform their Ensemble Conductor in advance. Music must be prepared and learnt outside of rehearsals. Rehearsals are for performance preparation, not note learning.

Performance Uniform

Students performing in school ensembles are required to wear the formal school uniform, including black opaque tights for girls.

Music ties will be issued at each performance, to be returned at the completion of the event.

Communication

Mt Maria College aims to include its parent body in every facet of the Music Program. It is essential that teachers and parents alike support and encourage students in their performances and practising of their musical instruments. Information is relayed to parents via the College Newsletter, broadcasts to parent emails, and via our Mt Maria Music Community Facebook page. It is recognised that parental support is essential to the successful running of the Program. Mt Maria Music endeavours to maintain meaningful and regular contact with parents in order to ensure that the needs of our students and their families are met. It is therefore paramount the parents/guardians regularly check emails.