

Grose View Public School Music program



Your guide



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Grose View Public School Music Program

The Grose View Public School Music Program is an integral part of music education at our school.

Alison Saunders has led the Program since 2003. She brings a love of music and a wealth of experience to her role as conductor and music arranger.

The Music Program is coordinated by a Music Committee which is a sub-committee of Grose View's P&C Association.

As a non-profit group, the Music Committee relies on lesson fees and fundraising to pay our music teacher, buy music, repair instruments, update equipment and keep the Music Program running.



Make music a part of your child's life

- Research shows, music education can enhance other areas of learning – and the younger you start the better.
- Students develop their appreciation and understanding of music and improve their aural and expressive skills.
- Learning an instrument helps to develop self-discipline, resilience and accountability.
- Performing for others promotes self-esteem.
- Being part of a band fosters team and community spirit, can enhance social skills and builds commitment.
- Making music is fun!

A spotlight on the Concert Band

The Concert Band is the most visible product, and the pinnacle, of our Music Program.

The Band performs at school assemblies and other important events during the year – both at school and in the community. It also stages an end of year concert for family and friends.

The Band has achieved great success under the leadership of Mrs Saunders.

Grose View received 1st place in the 2017 and 2016 Hawkesbury Eisteddfod, C grade section. These wins followed on from an equal 1st in B grade in 2015 and 1st in C grade in 2014. Individual students also regularly receive placings in the annual competition.

In addition, students who learn an instrument have the chance to perform in the biennial Hawkesbury Music Festival and to take part in highly valuable Western Sydney Showtime Band Workshops.



Music Program overview

The Grose View Public School Music Program has 5 strands. Students can join at any point, depending on their age and skill level. Each stage is highly enjoyable and very worthwhile.

Mini Musos

This 12-month program is designed for students in K-2. It's a fun way to introduce children to the language of music. It involves singing, learning the recorder, playing percussion instruments and moving to the rhythm and beat.

When: 8:30am to 9am, Tuesday or Thursday.

Cost: \$60 for a 10-week term. Please note, no refunds are given for mid-term withdrawal.

What you need to bring: A recorder and a clear slip display folder. You can buy a recorder from the Committee for \$10.

Beginner keyboard lessons

These lessons are aimed at students in years 1-2 who are not quite big enough to take on a band instrument, but who want to deepen their musical knowledge. They learn in small group or private lessons. Keyboard lessons are also available to students in higher years.

When: Lessons are held in school time on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays.

Cost: \$270 (private) or \$200 (small group*) for a 10-week term. Please note, no refunds are given for mid-term withdrawal.

What you need to bring: A clear slip display folder, an A4 exercise or scrap book, a music theory book** and a beginner music book** protected in a library bag or similar. You can hire an instrument from the Committee.

Requirements: Home practice.

Trial Band

Trial band lessons are available throughout the year*. They give students in years 2-5 the chance to try several instruments before deciding what they would like to learn. There is no obligation to take further lessons, or to join the Band. Students can try:

- flute
- clarinet
- alto saxophone
- trumpet
- euphonium
- trombone
- bass guitar
- keyboard, and/or
- drums

When: Lessons are held in school time.

Cost: \$10 for each small group* lesson/trial.

* Minimum numbers are required for small group lessons to be offered.

** Sourced by Mrs Saunders, cost added to your invoice.

Beginner Band

Students in their first year of weekly lessons on a band instrument or the keyboard are considered part of the Beginner Band. Students can start keyboard lessons in year 1 and band instruments from year 3.

When: Lessons are held in school time

Cost: \$270 (private) or \$200 (small group*) for a 10-week term. Please note, no refunds are given for mid-term withdrawal.

Equipment: A clear slip display folder, an A4 exercise or scrapbook, a music theory book** and a band method book** protected in a library bag or similar. You can hire an instrument from the Committee.

Requirements: Home practice – a music stand will make this easier.

Concert Band

Students are invited to join the Concert Band when their playing and reading skills are at a level that will allow them to enjoy, and be an active part of, the group. However, there is no expectation to join the band. Concert Band members are expected to have weekly lessons and attend a weekly Band rehearsal.

When: Lessons are held in school time, Band rehearsal is held on Wednesday 8.15am-9am.

Cost: \$270 (private) or \$200 (small group*) for a 10-week term. Please note, no refunds are given for mid-term withdrawal.

Equipment: Two clear slip display folders (one black), a lead pencil, an A4 exercise or scrapbook, a music theory and a band method book**, protected in a library bag or similar.

Requirements: Home practice, attendance of weekly Band rehearsals and all performances.

Fees

Lesson fees are invoiced two weeks before the start of term. Lessons will not start until fees are paid.

Important points about fees:

- Fees are paid by the term and there are no refunds for mid-term withdrawal.
- If Mrs Saunders is sick or on leave you will receive a refund for missed lessons in your next invoice.
- There is no refund given if a student forgets a lesson, is sick or takes part in an incursion or excursion. However, if your child has an extended period of illness or a family circumstance keeps them away from a significant number of lessons a reduction of fees will be considered.
- If your family is experiencing financial hardship a payment plan will be considered.
- Lessons swaps (to accommodation excursions etc) must be arranged between parents. This is not the responsibility of the Committee or Mrs Saunders.
- The Music Program is run by a volunteer parent committee which contracts Mrs Saunder's services. **All queries about invoices and fees should be made to the Music Committee.**

* Minimum numbers are required for small group lessons to be offered.

** Sourced by Mrs Saunders, cost added to your invoice.

Choosing an instrument

Be guided by your child. If they don't love the instrument they play, they won't practice or improve. The Trial Band program is a great way for students to try different instruments. Mrs Saunders can also help guide you and your child in choice of instrument.

If by the end of the first term your child decides they have not found their perfect musical match, they can try something else.

Hiring an instrument

School hire

The school has a variety of band instruments for hire. The cost is \$90 for each term, which includes repairs due to normal wear and tear.

All school instruments must be returned at the end of the year for a maintenance check. Instruments can be hired over the summer holiday period for an additional fee.

Please note, if an instrument is lost or damaged through careless handling, the hirer incurs the cost of repairs or replacement.

Where possible, we provide a replacement instrument while repairs are being made. If this is not possible, students still attend lessons and rehearsals for other aspects of tuition.

Private hire

There are several companies that hire out instruments to students. These agreements generally run on a monthly basis and some companies offer a scheme where you can hire an instrument for a certain period and then buy it at a reduced rate. If you opt for private hire, you are responsible for all instrument care and repairs.

Buying an instrument

If your child shows an ongoing interest in learning, you may want to buy an instrument.

Before you do, speak with Mrs Saunders or another professional tutor about your options. It can be very helpful to know a little about different brands and where to shop.

Once you own an instrument you are responsible for its care and repairs.

Reed instruments

Please note, clarinet and saxophone students are expected to supply their own reeds and asked to have two reeds at all times.

Reeds can be bought from Mrs Saunders at the same cost as from a music store. The cost is added to your invoice.

Lessons

In school lessons are a convenient way to learn an instrument. They free up your afternoons and save you the time and hassle of getting to and from a private tutor.

Mrs Saunders offers private (individual) and small group lessons (minimum numbers apply for these to run) during school hours several days a week. Lesson times change from week to week to ensure your child does not consistently miss one component of the curriculum.

Important points about lessons:

- Lesson times are displayed on a whiteboard outside the Music Room. It is your child's responsibility to check and meet their lesson time each week.
- It is the family's responsibility to ensure the student brings their instrument and lesson books to school.
- Let the school or Mrs Saunders know if your child is unable to attend their lesson.

Private lessons

Duration: 30 minutes.

Cost: \$270 for a 10-week term.

Private lessons suit students who are keen to constantly improve all aspects of their musicianship and are committed to regular home practice.

The individual lessons offered by Mrs Saunders are identical to those you would receive from an outside private music teacher. Students are given tuition in technical work, such as scales and tone building exercises, solo pieces, band music and music theory.

Willing learners can also take part in the local eisteddfod or prepare for AMEB (Australian Music Examination Board) exams. Please note, there are additional fees for these options.

Small group lessons

Duration: 30 minutes.

Cost: \$200 for a 10-week term.

Small group lessons include 2 to 3 students learning the same or similar instruments. This lesson format works well for students who enjoy learning with others, are self-motivated and committed to regular home practice.

Lessons cover technical work such as scales, tone building exercises, duet music or trio pieces, band music and music theory.

Mrs Saunders monitors the groups regularly and makes changes to reflect and foster progress. This can mean your child won't necessarily be in a group with a particular friend.

Home practice

Regular home practice (at least 3 times a week) is an essential part of learning an instrument. It really is the only way to consolidate what is taught and to build the skills necessary to improve.

Students receive a weekly practice sheet that must be signed off by an adult. Practice doesn't have to be gruelling, in fact it can be fun and highly rewarding.

It's important to note that the first term can be a very steep learning curve! There's so much to take in and learn – music is a whole new language – which is why regular home practice is such an important part of your child's musical journey.

Your commitment to the Band

Being part of the Band is no different to being part of a sporting team or dance troupe – it's good for you, it's a lot of fun, but it's also a commitment.

If you don't play your part you leave a hole in the group and you let the side down.

Before you decide to accept membership to the Concert Band you must make sure your family and your child know what's expected.

Students:

- A firm 12-month commitment.
- Weekly lessons on your instrument.
- Regular home practice – the more the better!
- Music theory homework.
- Looking after your instrument.
- Band rehearsal every Tuesday afternoon.
- Attending all Band performances.
- Taking part in the Hawkesbury Eisteddfod.

Families:

- New Music Committee members are always welcome! The Committee meets once a term and it's a great way to have some input into how the program runs.
- From time to time Band families are asked to transport their child to Band functions outside of school.
- The Music Committee raises funds throughout the year to support the Music Program and buy instruments and music supplies. All Music Program families will be asked to donate lollies, to make cakes or help on the Easter Hat Parade and Spring Fair stall.

Why commitment matters

Stick with it. Mastering an instrument takes time and dedication. It's a whole new language and range of physical skills. Progress can be slow, but, if your child perseveres, their progress will be consistent and rewarding.

I don't want to! Your child won't always want to practice. On some days, there'll be arguments, and quite possibly tears, but on other days you'll be rewarded with enthusiasm and excitement.

Something's missing... Band songs are chosen, or arranged, to suit the instruments in the group. If your child gives up part way through the year, they leave a hole in the music and the Band.

Life skills. Committing to a group is a great way to foster self-discipline, resilience, reliability and accountability.

More about the Music Committee

The Music Committee is a group of volunteers who administer the Music Program, including fees and all general enquiries.

A Committee representative delivers financial information and yearly reports to the P&C. They communicate with Music Program families via email, and with the broader school community through notes, the newsletter and school's Facebook page.

The Music Committee is made up of:

- the school Principal, who oversees and approves aspects that involve school requirements
- a staff member the primary contact for Band arrangements and school functions
- the Music Treasurer
- the Music Secretary
- parent representatives – who arrange fundraising and Band promotion, **and**
- the music teacher/Band leader.

Get in touch

If you have any questions about the Grose View Public School Music Program you can contact the Band Committee at gvpsband@gmail.com

Alternatively, contact the school's office to arrange an appointment with, or a call from, a Committee member.

To contact Mrs Saunders, email asaunders6865@gmail.com

Alternatively, you can write a message in your child's homework book.

And finally, a reminder that all questions about fees must be directed to the Music Committee.