

Instrumental Music

HANDBOOK



Acknowledgment to Country

Earnshaw State College acknowledges the traditional owners, the Turrbal and Jagera First Nations people as the custodians of where we gather today, recognising their connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to Australia's First Nations people and to their elder's past, present and emerging. May their strength and wisdom be with us today.

RATIONALE

Earnshaw State College prides itself on providing co-curricular learning pathways that allow students to pursue courses of study that support their academic and creative goals. The Instrumental Music Program is a school-based ensemble program, supported by Education Queensland, to promote instrumental music in state schools.

The overarching purpose of the Instrumental Music Program is to participate in performance ensembles, whilst providing children with the opportunity to experience the expressive qualities of music through learning to play an instrument.

AIMS

The Instrumental Music Program aims to:

- provide an opportunity for the musical development of students through instrumental instruction on a group basis.
- provide ensemble/band experience for these students so that they develop performance skills as an integral part of their music education.
- encourage group and solo performances.
- offer students the opportunity to explore and develop their musical abilities through playing an instrument and participating in ensembles.
- enhance the students' enjoyment of music by enabling them to respond to it with deeper understanding, gained through a knowledge of its melodic, rhythmic and harmonic properties, and through the personal experience of making music.
- motivate students to explore and come to know a variety of musical literature so that they may discover the value of music as a mode of expression while in school and as a lifetime leisure activity or vocation.

The Strings Strand

PROGRAM INFORMATION

At Earnshaw, we value music education; every student in years 2 and 3, learns to play the violin. From year 4, the co-curricular Strings program becomes an elective and students may choose to remain in the program and continue to develop their skills as young musicians.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

There are no entry requirements for the Strings Strand of the Instrumental Music program. We believe in affording all students the opportunity to access music education.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

In years 2 and 3, the violin program is designed to be fun, interactive, and engaging. Class groups spend 45 minutes working on their musical abilities and skills with an instrumental specialist and supported by an experienced teacher aide.

From year 4 onwards, students who elect to remain in the program may continue to learn the violin, or another string instrument, as negotiated with the Strings specialist. Lessons are conducted during school times and may be placed on a fixed or rotational timetable each week, as appropriate. Instruction is delivered to small groups of 3-8 students and are 30 minutes in length.

ENSEMBLES

In our Strings Strand of Instrumental Music, we have two ensembles:

- **The Earnshaw String Ensemble** is for all students in years 4-12 who are learning a string instrument.
- **The Earnshaw String Quartet** is an elite group of four advanced players. These players are selected by the Strings Specialist teacher based on ability and potential.

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Multiple performance opportunities exist for members of the Strings Strand of the Instrumental Music Program. Historically, students from this strand have performed:

- In the Griffith University's State Honours Ensemble Program (SHEP)
- On school assemblies
- At Earnshaw's Open Evening
- At the Nundah Village Street Festival
- At Arts Under the Stars
- At Awards Evening
- At Earnshaw's Christmas Concert

The Woodwind, Brass and Percussion Strand

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Music instruction is provided from Year 4 through to Year 12 for woodwind, brass and percussion instruments on a group basis.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Selection for entry into the Woodwind, Brass and Percussion Strand is based on a series of suitability tests, the first of which is the result of a music listening test. Feedback is also sought from the music teacher and classroom teacher for the students' academic ability, responsibility, their ability to work independently, and also parental support. Students who are deemed suitable will then progress to the physical testing on instruments. At this stage, the Instrumental Music Specialist can direct a student to the most suitable instrument for tuition.

Physical factors are an important aspect when considering an instrument for a student. The following are considered when allocating an instrument:

- natural ability to produce a sound on the instrument
- size of hands and arms
- mouth and teeth structure (including braces)
- lip shape
- physical size/height

Following this process - if successful in all stages – students will then be offered a position to join the program.

Please note:

- THE NEEDS OF THE ENSEMBLE/BAND are taken into consideration when recruiting to ensure the school can produce a balanced ensemble of woodwind, brass and percussion players.
- Final selection is based upon the number of positions available in the timetable and is at the discretion of the Instrumental Music Teacher.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Lessons are conducted during school times and may be placed on a fixed or rotational timetable each week, as appropriate. Instruction is delivered to small groups of 3-8 students and are 30 minutes in length. When a child is deemed capable by the teacher, it is compulsory that they participate in a school band.

BANDS

In our Woodwind, Brass and Percussion Strand of Instrumental Music, we have three bands:

- **The Beginner Band** is for beginner level musicians. It usually runs from Term 2.
- **The Combined Concert Band** is for all intermediate and above level musicians.
- **The Stage Band** is for a select group of musicians in years 7-12.

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Multiple performance opportunities exist for members of the Woodwind, Brass and Percussion Strand of the Instrumental Music Program. Historically, students from this strand have performed:

- On school assemblies
- At the school and community ANZAC Services
- At Arts Under the Stars
- At Awards Evening
- At Earnshaw's Christmas Concert

CAMPS

Music camps are arranged to provide enriching experiences for students and are normally held on a yearly basis for beginner, intermediate, and advanced musicians. Students are strongly encouraged to attend these camps or workshops as a great deal of musical development takes place in this environment. The cost of these camps varies. More information will be made available to parents, should a camp be recommended for a student enrolled in the program.



COST

Course fees for all participants will be endorsed by the P&C, finalised, and communicated to applicants in Term 4.

In 2023, the fees for Instrumental Music students were as follows:

- Year 2 & 3 Violin Program: Free
- Year 4-12 Instrument Hire: \$150
- Year 4-12 Subject Levy: \$60

Throughout the year, students may have opportunities to participate in competitions, camps, workshops and performances that may attract an additional cost or there may be a small cost involved for parents to attend. Parents will be advised of any additional activities, as relevant.

PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS

To be eligible for participation in the Instrumental Music program, applicants must demonstrate a commitment to the program, and additionally, must be of an acceptable standard across academic achievements and behaviour. An ideal applicant for this program will possess:

- a commitment to practising outside of school hours;
- the ability to work productively in a positive team environment;
- the ability to achieve a satisfactory standard in all academic subjects at Earnshaw State College;
- an exemplary record of effort and behaviour within the school community;
- attendance at or above 85%;
- the capacity to cover program costs;
- a passion to pursue music excellence and promote music in all of its facets; and
- a desire to demonstrate diligence, integrity, courage and empathy at all times.

To remain within this program, students are expected to maintain a 'C' standard in achievement, effort and behaviour, as a minimum. Failure to meet this requirement may result in suspension or exclusion from the program.

APPLICATION PROCESS

FOR YEAR 2 & 3 VIOLIN PROGRAM:

All students in Years 2 and 3 are automatically admitted to the violin program.

Parents are required to submit:

- An EQ11 Form



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC: STRINGS STRAND (YEAR 4-12)

Students should submit the following paperwork:

- An Intention to Participate in Instrumental Music form
- An EQ11 Form (for those wishing to hire an instrument).

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC: WOODWIND, BRASS & PERCUSSION STRAND (YEARS 4-12):

Students should submit the following paperwork:

- An Intention to Participate in Instrumental Music form
- An EQ11 Form (for those wishing to hire an instrument).



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM - INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE FORM

Dear Parent/Carer,

At Earnshaw State College, from Year 4, students are able to choose from a range of different instruments to learn from the Woodwind, Brass, Percussion and String families.

If your child is in Year 4-12 and intends to commence or continue in our Instrumental Music Strand/s in 2024, please complete this form and submit it to the Junior or Senior Administration office before the conclusion of the 2023 school year.

SECTION 1: PERSONAL DATA

STUDENT NAME:				
YEAR LEVEL:	Now:		2024:	

SECTION 2: INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC HISTORY

In 2023, my student (please tick):

- Participated in the Year 2-3 Violin Program
- Participated in the Earnshaw String Ensemble/Earnshaw String Quartet
- Participated in the Earnshaw Concert Band/Earnshaw Stage Band
- Did not engage in any Instrumental Music programs
- Participated in an Instrumental Music program, at another school (Please provide details below):

SECTION 3: INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC INTENTIONS

In 2024, my student intends to (please tick):

- Withdraw from all Instrumental Music programs at Earnshaw.

Or

Participate in the:

- Instrumental Music: Strings Strand
- Instrumental Music: Percussion, Woodwind & Brass Strand
- Both Strands

Should my student be accepted into the program/s, they intend to:

- Hire a school instrument
- Purchase their own instrument
- N/A – my student owns an instrument already.

My student would like to:

- Continue learning their current instrument/s

SECTION 5: INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM ENROLMENT AGREEMENT

STUDENT ENROLMENT AGREEMENT

As a member of the Instrumental Music Program at Earnshaw State College, I will:

1. Attend all lessons and band/ensemble rehearsals as required and on time.
2. Be organised in relation to remembering my instrument and equipment for lessons and band/ensemble.
3. Practise for the required amount of time (minimum 4 x week) and fill out a practice record.
4. Assist with setting up and packing up of general equipment such as chairs and music stands before and after lessons and rehearsals.
5. Attend all instrumental music activities as required throughout the year.
6. Try my best in lessons and band/ensemble.
7. Commit to the program on the same instrument for a minimum of one year with the intention to remain in the program for the rest of my time at Earnshaw State College.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN AGREEMENT

As a parent/guardian of a child who studies Instrumental Music, I will:

1. Pay all of the associated fee/costs for my child involved in the instrumental music program.
2. Ensure my child is dropped off and/or picked up at the appropriate times for before and/or after school rehearsals.
3. Provide a note if my child is unable to participate in a lesson, rehearsal or performance.
4. Communicate with my child's Instrumental Music teacher if have concerns about my child, relating to the program.
5. Provide a quiet and appropriate place for my child to practise and view and sign the practice record each week.
6. Encourage my child to practise and try to listen to them practise when possible.
7. Encourage my child with positive comments about their progress.
8. Provide my child with a suitable instrument in good working order and the other equipment necessary for them as listed by the teacher.
9. Ensure my child participates in camps, workshops and performances as required throughout the year.
10. Help my child to fulfil their commitment to the Instrumental Music Program.
11. Read the Earnshaw State College Instrumental Music Parent Handbook.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Please return the *Instrumental Music Program – Intention to Participate Form* to the Senior or Junior Administration office, before the conclusion of the school year (in preparation for the year to come). Should you have any questions about our Instrumental Music Strands, please do not hesitate to contact the Head of Department – Arts

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EQ11 External Request for Equipment is to be completed when loaning Department of Education, Training and the Arts equipment to employees, students or community organisations for use after hours, during school holidays on, or away, from official premises.

DETAILS OF REQUISITIONER / PERSON TO WHOM EQUIPMENT IS ON LOAN

Name	Address	Telephone:
Organisation Name		
If Student, Year Level:		
Location and Use of Equipment (if different from above)		
Reason for Request		

DETAILS OF EQUIPMENT ON LOAN

Description / Type:		Brand:	
Serial Number		Asset Number	
Accessories: (if applicable)		For ICT equipment, Build Standard: (e.g. MOE, 1.X/SOE)	
Commencement loan date:		Expected date of return:	Date returned:
Officer receiving returned equipment	Name:		Signature:

INDEMNITY

Fair wear and tear excepted, and for the duration of this transfer, I/we agree to indemnify Education Queensland against loss or damage from any cause whatsoever, to the equipment detailed herein and, in the event of damage to restore and deliver such equipment to Education Queensland, in the condition in which it was received, or to replace the damaged equipment with other equipment of equivalent functionality.

Signature _____ **Date** ___ / ___ / ___

APPROVAL FOR LOAN

I authorise the loan of the equipment to the parent/guardian for, and on behalf of, the student.
(Cross out "to the parent/guardian and onstudent" if equipment is not being loaned to a student.)

Signature of School Approving Officer: _____

Name:	Designation:	Date: / /
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Every Student Achieving Success

Instrumental Music Parent Handbook Updated June 2024

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