



ASCOT STATE SCHOOL PRIVATE INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM

Ascot State School is a proud, independent state school and offers to all students the opportunity to participate in Education Queensland's Instrumental Program. Students in Year 3 have the opportunity to participate in the Strings Program whilst the opportunity to learn other band instruments begins in Year 4.

At Ascot State School we offer students in Year 3 who are NOT selected for the Strings Program, the opportunity to participate in a Private Year 3 Instrumental Music Program. This program has been operating for several years now and the school employs specialist instrumental teachers to provide small group tuition for students during school time. Please note that places are strictly limited for this program and it is a user-pays system.

The overarching purpose of the Year 3 Private Instrumental Music Program is to provide children with the opportunity to experience the expressive qualities of music through learning to play a band/orchestral instrument and to participate in performance ensembles such as concert bands and orchestras. These Junior Band performances usually commence in Semester 2.

The program is based on a broad set of objectives that spring from two fundamental goals: the mastery of technical skills and the development of musical sensitivity. Though it is not possible to teach students how to feel about a piece of music, it is possible to improve the quality of perception by fostering the acquisition of musical skills; and with heightened perception comes aesthetic sensibility.

The instrumental program requires a balanced and comprehensive approach to the development of musical perception, aesthetic sensitivity and technical mastery. The program provides opportunities for greater participation in music education for the whole school community as well as enrichment experiences for gifted and talented students.

Information for Students

The following instruments are available for private tuition:

- the Flute
- or the Clarinet
- or the Saxophone
- or the Trumpet
- or the Tenor Horn
- or the Trombone
- or the Euphonium/Baritone

Think about it then circle the one you would like to play and listen to the students playing it in Ascot's Senior Band.

Did you know that many of the players in the Senior Band started to learn in Year 3 just as you would be doing?

Once you have decided which one you would like to play, talk to your parents and to our Instrumental Teachers about the one which you would like to learn.

What is it like to learn a wind instrument?

At some time you may have had the chance to go up to a piano and play it by pressing some of the keys. The sounds came out very easily, didn't they? Learning a wind instrument is different.

Say you want to learn the clarinet. You will start by learning to hold the instrument and then your teacher will teach you how to make the correct sounds by blowing into the mouthpiece.

Once you feel comfortable blowing the clarinet, you will learn how to read music in your special music band book and then you will be off!

By the way:

- Who is your favourite sports person?
- How do you think they became an expert in their sport?
- What about all the Olympic athletes? What is it that they all have done to get to the top in their sports?

I am sure you will realise that it was all their hard work and effort and their willingness to work at it every day which helped them to win all their medals.

*Learning a musical instrument is FUN but it takes time. It becomes much, much easier if you play it regularly every day. You will be ready to play in the Junior Band after a few months and could make it into the Senior Band in Year 5 if you want to - so **WHY NOT TRY!***

Information for Parents

Ascot State School has established a private program for those students wishing to learn a wind instrument. The school is fortunate to have the services of two very experienced teachers and musicians: Mrs Rachael Doucet and Mrs Christy Dykes.

First discuss with your child the instrument of his or her choice, complete the enclosed form and return it to Mrs Daley, Director of Music. Your child will then meet either with Mrs Doucet or Mrs Dykes for a short talk about what is involved in learning a musical instrument and any questions can be put forward then. All parents will receive a letter of acceptance or non-acceptance into the private program.

The Ascot Private Instrumental Program includes half hour lessons in groups from 4 to 6 during school time at a cost of \$240.00 per child per semester. All payments must be made by week five of each semester or your child will be withdrawn from the program. Parents will be required to provide an instrument and the necessary accessories as per the Music Department Handbook by the fourth week of term one.

Parental encouragement during the first year is most important and encouraging your child to practise every day and play to you will mean that progress will be noticeably quicker. Making sounds, holding a new instrument and reading music all take time, but the rewards are many and definitely worthwhile!

Gayle Coleman
Principal

Debbie Daley
Director of Music – Ascot SS