Hornsby North Public School

Band Program

BAND HANDBOOK

Please keep for future reference
THE BAND PROGRAM AT HORNSBY NORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL

The band program at Hornsby North Public School has been established for many years. It comprises of Senior Concert Band, Intermediate Concert Band and Junior Concert Band. In recent years all Bands have been recognised with numerous awards at Several Band Festivals. The Band program forms an integral part of the co-curricular life of Hornsby North Public School. The Bands perform regularly at various activities and functions within the school. It is a great way for your child to contribute to the school community.

Participating in the band program has many benefits for children:

*It’s exciting and fun!
*Music provides an avenue for creativity and self-expression.
*Children can meet new friends across years.
*Children learn self-discipline and how to co-operate with others.
*As a team, children work towards a common goal, improving self esteem and confidence.
*It is a way of gaining merit cards towards school medals.
*Researchers have identified music as one of the 7 intelligences!

The Hornsby North Band Program has become successful because it has emphasised three important things: **commitment, motivation and support.** Before applying for a place in the band program, parents and children should be aware of their responsibilities. The following information provides an overview of the band program. By understanding how the program works, the expectations of band membership and your role in the process, you will be helping us to maintain its high standards.

**JOINING THE BAND**

Membership is open to interested students who will be in Years 3 – 6. Parents should complete the **application form** at the back of this hand book and return it to the Band Box in the office ASAP.

Please note that not all students are offered a preferred instrument. We try to accommodate preferences however, since some instruments are more popular than others, and our aim is to achieve a balanced band, this is not always possible.

In the recruitment process the students will have been tested on each instrument to see which physically suits.

The child having played the instruments will also know which instruments was the most comfortable for them to play.

Each child’s preference will be taken in to consideration before places are offered in the band program.

**COMMITMENTS INVOLVED**

Once children have committed to playing in the band, they are asked to honor that commitment for the remainder of the year. This is to be fair to the band as a whole. Our focus is to play as a band, if you want your child to learn music but cannot commit to
attending festivals and competitions, then band may not be for you. Each member is an integral part of the team, and the team is greatly disadvantaged when some members don’t turn up or drop out.

If your child becomes unhappy in the Band, please discuss it with the Conductor as the problem may be easily solved.

Children in the band are expected to:

- **attend band rehearsals twice a week** (days/times will be confirmed).
- attend a **30 minute individual lesson** with an instrumental tutor at Hornsby North P.S. once a week.
- attend occasional performances outside of school time.
- attend occasional weekend performances.
- **fully attend Band Camp** (Saturday – Sunday, Term 2)
- **attend Band Workshop Day** (1 Saturday or Sunday in Term 1)

To give you an idea, performances throughout the past year included:

- Lisgar Gardens Teddy Bears Picnic (Senior Band)
- Wahroonga Music Festival (Junior, Intermediate and Senior Bands)
- NSW Band Festival (All 3 Bands)
- Asquith Boys High School Community Day (Stage & Senior Bands)
- Hornsby North School Band Festival (all 3 bands)
- School Open Night for Education Week (All 3 Bands)
- Father’s Day Breakfast (Junior, Stage Bands)
- Band Workshop Day (All 3 Bands) COMPULSORY
- Band Camp (All 3 Bands) COMPULSORY

It is also important for the students to have a regular practice regime arranged at home. Musicians need to have regular practice to help develop their playing muscles as well as to reinforce concepts they learn both in their band rehearsals and in their lessons.

The purchase of a black music stand is recommended to keep at home and to bring to some outside school performances.

There should also be a conscious commitment from parents to help their children with their music education. Parents should encourage and support their child’s learning.

We cannot run our band program without parents help. We ask that parents join the committee and help out with organising the workshop days, band camp and band festival.

Each band also needs two band co ordinators to help set up and pack away each week, help students at festivals, pass out notes, photocopy music. You do not need a music background.
## INSTRUMENTS IN THE BAND

At Hornsby North we will be offering the following instruments: Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Piccolo, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba and Percussion (encompassing Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Timpani, Auxiliary, and Tuned Percussion)
INFORMATION ABOUT INSTRUMENTS YOU CAN PLAY IN THE HORNBY NORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM

FLUTE

The flute is the highest sounding of the woodwind instruments. You play the flute by blowing over a hole. The flute is silver in colour.

CLARINET

The clarinet is the second highest sounding woodwind instrument and can even play almost as high as the flute. It can also play much lower than the flute. It is played by blowing through a reed that is found at the top of the clarinet. Clarinets are usually black in colour.

SAXOPHONE

The saxophone is the biggest woodwind instrument in the band and comes in a few different sizes. The standard size is Alto, which is a middle sounding woodwind instrument. The saxophone is played by blowing through a reed at the top. The saxophone is gold in colour.
TRUMPET

The trumpet is the highest sounding brass instrument in the band. It has a very bright and loud sound.

TROMBONE

The trombone is a low sounding brass instrument. You change the notes on the trombone by sliding the tubes at the end of the instrument.

EUPHONIUM/ BARITONE

The Euphonium or Baritone is another low sounding brass instrument. It sits on the lap and is playing with valves like a trumpet. It has a very melodic tone.

PERCUSSION

Percussion includes the drum kit and glockenspiel, and also any other instrument that you need to hit. These include triangle, cowbells, woodblocks, cymbals, whistles, and other special effects.
OUR BANDS

**JUNIOR CONCERT BAND** - is the first step in the program and is where children enter with little or no musical experience. This band lasts for one year, then the children are generally promoted to Intermediate Concert Band. They are involved in performances usually in the second part of the year.

**INTERMEDIATE CONCERT BAND** – is the second step and involves children with at least one years’ training. This ensemble performs at various in school events such as assemblies, education week activities, as well as entering some external eisteddfods and festivals.

**SENIOR CONCERT BAND** - involves children with at least two years playing experience and performs at school and community events, and various competitions and eisteddfods.

**STAGE BAND** - students are hand picked from Senior Concert Band by conductors to form this Jazz Band. They play in both bands and places are offered to those who play Trombone, Baritones, Saxophone, Trumpet and Percussion. Stage Band perform at school, community events, various competitions and eisteddfods.

* Rehearsal days and times will be confirmed.

INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

Naturally, in a band of large numbers, with as many as ten different instruments playing at once, it is impossible for the conductor to teach each child how to play their instruments. We have two band rehearsals per week.

Children learn to play their instruments in a weekly, half-hour private lesson at the school. You will be given a list of Tutors and you will have to arrange a day and time with that tutor. **THIS IS COMPULSORY**, you do not have to use the tutors at the school as long as our conductors have the details of your tutor.

All our tutors are highly qualified teachers who understand the needs of our students.

The purpose of professional tuition is to teach students correct technique, breathing, musical notation and musicality.

The fee for using the Tutors at the school is a discounted rate and will be advised in due course.
INSTRUMENT HIRE/PURCHASE

There are 2 options for obtaining instruments.

1. **Hire** – Instruments may be hired from the Band Program at Hornsby North. Instruments are serviced by the program and remain the property of the program. The price for this hire is **$50** per term. The Band Program services all instruments annually. However, parents will pay for repairs of any damage caused by the child. Parents hiring a school instrument are asked to sign an indemnity form at the beginning of the year.

2. **Hire/Buy** – An excellent hire/buy scheme is available from:
   - Dural Music – 9651 7333
   - Turramurra Music Centre – 9449 8487

Alternatively you may want to purchase an instrument outright. If you are thinking of purchasing an instrument please be aware of ‘cheap’ instruments as you will get what you pay for. You may wish to contact the band directors as they will be able to assist with letting you know what brands are right for your child as well as music stores that will give you the best deal.

BAND FEE

The fee for band tuition is $400 per year. This can be paid in a lump sum or split over 4 equal payments of $100 per term. This money is used for all band expenses absorbing fees such as:

1. Band Rehearsals & Conductor
2. Music
3. Accessories (including stands, cleaners, valve oil etc. but excluding reeds)
4. Band Workshop (including tuition)
5. Band Camp (including tuition and meals)
6. Competition Fees

A further fee of **$50 per term** is charged if you hire one of the band program’s instruments.

You pay for your Tutorial Lessons directly to the Tutor, you do not pay the school.

AUDITIONS

Our Band Awards system is handed to each band student at the beginning of the year, they work through this document with their tutors and conductors to progress through the band program. Auditions are held so that the conductors can properly assess each member individually for placement in an ensemble that is appropriate to their current level.

Students can sit these auditions at any stage during the year, dates are set for each term as they arise, and can re sit if they are required or wish to do so.
SPONSORSHIPS

The Band Committee does offer a number of sponsorships for children. These will be strictly limited and will be made on the basis of family financial hardship.

Applications should be made in writing and addressed to the President of the Band Committee, detailing circumstances and income and received (in the Band Box) by early December.

A sub-committee will handle these in strict confidence. If a child is granted sponsorship it will be reviewed throughout the year on the basis of the child’s commitment to band, attendance at rehearsals, behaviour and financial change of circumstances.

If a child does not fulfill these satisfactorily, sponsorship will be suspended and used to benefit another child. The sponsorship applies for one year and candidates must reapply for the next year.

Please note the sponsorship does not cover individual tuition fees.

THE BAND COMMITTEE

The Hornsby North Band Committee is a sub-committee of the P&C. They work in consultation with the school and the band directors to provide the best program possible for the children.

The band program cannot run without parent help and is also dependent on the number of parents involved. If you would like to contribute please feel free to approach our Band Committee President. No music knowledge is required.

We thank you in advance for your time, support and your contribution to enriching your child and your life with music!
BAND APPLICATION FORM

This form is due back to the Band Box in the office by Friday 16th October 2015

Student's Name _____________________________Class____________

Parent Name(s)________________________________________________

Address______________________________________________________

Telephone (h) ___________________ (m) ___________________________

Is there any instrument you do not wish your child to play? And Reason:

Has your child played an instrument before (with lessons)?

Yes/No_______________________________________________________

Which Instrument______________________________________________

How long have they played it?_____________________________________

Are any family members involved in musical activities?

Is your child involved in any form of dance/movement class? Please give details

Is it likely that your child will leave school before the end of Year 6? (This information is useful in order to balance the composition of the band in future years.)

Which area will you be assisting with (Please circle) Publicity, Band Camp, Band Workshop Day, Instrument Control, Committee Member.

PLEASE READ AND SIGN:
"We (Child and Parent/ Caregiver) have read the handbook and understand and acknowledge the commitment involved.

Student’s Signature _____________________________

Parent’s Signature _____________________________ Date_________