Welcome and congratulations on choosing to be a part of the Kalamunda SHS Music Program for 2012!

This booklet has been put together for music students and their parents to help explain and answer any questions you may have about the KSHS Music Program.

For many music students in Year 8, this will be their first classroom or instrumental music experience and it is important that all parties understand the commitment and expectations of being a music student.

What are the expectations of a music student?

To be a successful music student and to have a successful music department in the school, a high level of commitment and dedication is required by all music students.

Expectations include:

- Full participation in class music
- Weekly attendance to instrument/vocal lessons
- Weekly attendance to ensemble rehearsal (See “Ensemble” section)
- Regular practice on your instrument
- Attendance at ensemble performances throughout the year
- Self motivation & independence

Music, especially ensemble playing, is rewarding and fun. It is like a team sport – if one person does not put in the effort or come to rehearsals regularly, the team suffers from the loss!

Instrumental Music Lessons – What can I expect?

ALL students enrolled in music (Class Music) will be required to learn an instrument or voice in Year 8, either privately or through the school. Beginners will be allocated an instrument based on personal preference (yellow forms that were completed with your enrolment), suitability to instrument and availability of instruments.

Instrumental and voice lessons are run in conjunction with KSHS Music Department and The School of Instrumental Music (SIM). Each instrumental/voice teacher comes to the school on a designated day to give lessons as either a small group or individual, depending on the instrument and year level.

For ongoing SIM instrument students (i.e. you were already having SIM lessons in primary school), your lessons will commence with your teacher in either week 2 or 3 of Term 1. Timetables will be available and your class music teacher will show you where these are found.

For beginning SIM students (starting lessons in Yr 8 through SIM), your lessons will commence in week 3 or 4 of Term 1 after instrument/voice allocations are finalised.
Instrumental lessons are run during school hours and are cycled on a rotating timetable when possible. This means that during the period the instrumental teacher is in the school, the lessons will rotate times from week to week. This is done so that students will hopefully not miss the same subject class each week. Upper school students are given priority times such as before school, recess and lunch.

It is a student’s own responsibility to check lesson times and to get to their lesson at the correct time. Instrumental students will have a Music Pass to show to their class teacher which will allow them to leave/return for their instrumental lesson. It is also a responsibility of a music student to check with the subject teacher about work/homework they may have missed during that time.

Do I need to purchase an instrument?

In most cases, ongoing students will already own their own instruments. This usually applies to classical guitars, flutes, clarinets and trumpets.

For beginner instrumentalists, you may be entitled to hire your instrument through the KSHS Music Department or SIM. Instruments are usually loaned for 1 year but this may be extended in some situations. The hire fee per year is $100.00.

Instruments for hire usually include:

- Trumpet (beginner only)
- Trombone/Baritone
- French Horn
- Saxophone
- Clarinet (beginner only)
- Bassoon

Instruments expected to be purchased include:

- All Guitars (inc. amps where applicable)
- Brass (ongoing)
- Flutes
- Clarinets
- Percussion (mallets, sticks & practice pad)

In addition to this, consumables (reeds, cork grease, guitar/violin strings etc), mallets (percussion only) and any tuition books will need to be purchased as needed.

What is a Practice Journal?

A practice journal is book given to the student by the SIM teacher for communication. This includes teacher-student and teacher-parent.

The teacher will write in the activities to be practised during the week as well as any other information (purchase of a book, equipment, reeds etc). Students are to record their daily practice and then parents are to sign it each week.

This is the primary source of communication between all three parties and in the front contains various pieces of information about practice regimes, expectations and contact numbers for SIM etc. All parents and students should read this section.
Do I play in an ensemble?

Yes! Every instrumental or vocal student will be required to join an ensemble when the teacher is satisfied the student is ready. For ongoing students, this will usually be immediate and for beginners this will usually be by the end of Semester 1 or once their progress is sufficient.

Ensemble playing develops a range of qualities including better musicianship, sense of belonging, increased self esteem, achievement and leadership. Ensemble rehearsals operate out of school hours for 45 – 60 minutes, depending on the group. The following ensembles will be running in 2012:

- Hills District Junior Band: Monday 3.30 – 4.10pm
- KSHS Concert Band: Tuesday 3.00 – 4.30pm
- Classical Guitar Ensemble: Friday 7.40 – 8.30am
- KSHS Choir: Friday TBC
- String Ensemble: Wednesday 7.45 – 8.30am

What do I do in classroom music?

Classroom music encompasses all four Art’s strands from the Curriculum Framework including music skills, aural training, composition, performance, listening activities and music culture & history.

In lower school (8-10), these aspects are covered via a variety of musical genres including Rock’n’Roll, Blues, Jazz, Western Art (classical), Pop, Latin, Media/TV Music and Film Music.

Class music does not include individual instruction of an instrument due to large class numbers and limited resources. That is the job of SIM to provide this tuition. However, the students will have access to some keyboards and acoustic guitars in the classroom and some basic tuition will be given as a class group.

Any questions?

Please do not hesitate to call for any questions regarding music at KSHS. School phone number is 9293 6400 or you can email me on Marisa.Ritchie@det.wa.edu.au

I look forward to meeting you all in 2012!

Mrs Marisa Hobbs
Music Teacher