



Kalamunda Senior High School
An Independent Public School

Music information booklet



Learning - Respect - Resilience - Pride - Community

This booklet is for music students (both continuing and prospective) and their parents to help explain and answer any questions about the Music Program at Kalamunda SHS.

For many music students in Year 7 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 a high level of commitment and dedication is required by all students.

Expectations include:

- full participation in Class Music;
- weekly attendance at instrument/vocal lessons;
- weekly attendance at ensemble rehearsals;
- regular practice on your instrument;
- attendance at ensemble performances throughout the year; and
- self-motivation and 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 whole 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 7, either privately or through the school. Beginners will be allocated an instrument based on personal preference, suitability to instrument and availability of instruments.

Instrumental and voice lessons are run in conjunction with KSHS Music Department and the Instrumental Music School Services (IMSS). Each instrumental/voice teacher comes to the school on a designated day to give lessons in small group classes.

For ongoing IMSS instrument students (who were already having lessons in primary school), your lessons will commence with your teacher in Week 2 of Term 1. Timetables will be available and your Class Music teacher will show you where these are found.



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 to avoid missing the same subject class each week. Senior School students are given priority times such as before school, and during 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 are required to sign in and out at Student Services for music lessons. It is also a responsibility of each music student to check with their subject teacher about any work/homework they may have missed during that time.

Do I need to purchase an instrument?

In most cases, ongoing students will already have their own instruments. This usually applies to classical guitars, flutes, clarinets and trumpets. Beginner instrumentalists may be entitled to hire an instrument through the KSHS Music Department or IMSS. Instruments are usually loaned for one year but this may be extended in some situations. Students may also hire instruments for an annual hire fee.

Instruments for hire usually include:

- Trumpet;
- Trombone/Baritone;
- French Horn;
- Saxophone;
- Clarinet; and
- Bassoon.



Instruments expected to be purchased are:

- all Guitars (inc. amps where applicable);
- continuing instruments such as Brass, Clarinets, Flutes when they can be afforded; and
- Percussion (mallets, sticks and practice pad).



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

What is a Practice Journal?

A practice journal is a book given to the student by the IMSS teacher for communication between the teacher and student and the teacher and parent.

The teacher will record the activities to be practised during the week as well as any other information (purchase of a book, equipment, reeds etc.) in the journal. Students are to record their daily practice and then parents are to sign it each week. This journal 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 IMSS. All parents and students should read this section.



Will I play in an ensemble?

Yes! Every instrumental or vocal student will be required to join an ensemble. All music students in these IMSS performing groups are required to wear the music uniform. There is a small cost for the school performance shirt and order forms are available from the Music Department. Students will also need to purchase 'performance blacks' consisting of formal black shoes and black dress pants.

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 rehearse regularly before and after school:

- Junior Concert Band;
- Junior Classical Guitar Ensemble;
- Senior Concert Band;
- Senior Classical Guitar String Ensemble;
- Percussion Ensemble;
- Choir Acapella choir;
- Rock Bands Contemporary guitar ensemble; and
- Wind Ensembles (flutes and wood winds).



What do I do in Classroom Music?

Classroom Music encompasses all four Art's strands from the WA Curriculum including music skills, aural training, composition, performance, listening activities and music culture and history. It also helps to create well-rounded musicians and explores music theory, performance practices, aural training, music history, contemporary and classical genres and instrumental skill building.

Any questions?

Please do not hesitate to call the school or music department directly on 9293 6444. Alternatively you may email Michelle Vivian (michelle.vivian@education.wa.edu.au) with any enquiries regarding Year 7 transition and specialist KPA Music, or Marcus Roberts (marcus.roberts@education.wa.edu.au) for general music enquiries.

The parent support group 'Musikal' provides ongoing information to parents about events, performances and meetings. Enquiries regarding music shirts or the Musikal mailing list can be directed through the school email.





Kalamunda Senior High School

An Independent Public School

Kalamunda Senior High School
12 Cotherstone Road
Kalamunda
Western Australia 6076

Phone: (08) 9293 6400

Fax: (08) 9293 4448

Email: kalamunda.shs@education.wa.edu.au

Website: www.kalamundashs.wa.edu.au