Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

St John's
REGIONAL COLLEGE

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM



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MUSIC INFORMATION

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LESSONS

Congratulations on choosing Instrumental Music lessons for your child!

Music is such an important aspect of your child's development, and the benefits of an instrumental music education are many. Musical activities provide children with important experiences that can help to develop physical coordination, timing, memory, visual, aural and language skills.

When students work to increase their command of music and exercise musical skills in the company of others, they gain important experience with self-paced learning, mental concentration and a heightened personal and social awareness.

Providing your child with a musical education at a young age increases the likelihood your child will become more meaningfully involved in music in later life as a listener, performer, or composer.

The Instrumental Music Staff at St John's Regional College are enthusiastic, supportive, and experienced music educators. A variety of instruments are offered including singing, piano, guitar, and drums (with more available upon request).

Students who wish to learn an instrument are encouraged to choose Classroom Music as an elective in years 9 and beyond, and join at least one school-based ensemble.



BENEFITS OF LEARNING AN INSTRUMENT

It is a widely accepted fact that learning music is beneficial for all children, regardless of a predisposition or talent for music.

Neuroscientific research now suggests that there are transferable skills from Music to other areas of school (e.g. English and Mathematics). This is why music learning is a full brain workout! Please see the below skills that are developed:







INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC FEES

St John's Regional College offers individual and group Instrumental Music lessons to students interested in extending their musical development. Tuition is currently available for the instruments highlighted below. All other instruments are dependent on student interest and tutor availability.

Violin
Guitar
Bass
Piano
Voice
Flute
Saxophone
Drum kit & Percussion

FEES AND CHARGES

Individual 30-minute lesson: $51.25*
Shared (two or more students) 30-minute lesson: $36.00

*Based on recommended VMTA rates.

In the event your child is enrolled into shared lessons and there are no other students available to join, individual 20-minute lessons will be offered instead. Shared lessons are unavailable for Piano (except for beginner Year 7s), and lessons will be charged per Term in full.

	PER TERM	PER SEMESTER	PER YEAR
INDIVIDUAL	$359	$718	$1,436
SHARED	$252	$504	$1,008
NUMBER OF LESSONS	7	14	28

Group lessons dependent on enrolment numbers.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LESSONS

Please note: extra charges will apply to students wishing to undertake AMEB exams.

Terms and Conditions of Music lessons:

1. Lessons are to be paid for the term in advance. Once the Enrolment Form is completed and submitted, the College Finance team will send payment details.
2. If the Tutor is unavailable at the scheduled time, the lesson will be made up in the current term or it will be credited from the following terms fees.
3. If the student is not available at the scheduled time the lesson will not be rescheduled unless the absence is a College approved absence.
4. The College will notify parents if the student does not attend the designated lesson.
5. The College reserves the right to withhold lessons from families whose tuition fee accounts are not up to date.

TUITION TIMES

Instrumental tuition takes place during school hours on a rotating roster basis. This attempts to prevent students missing the same lesson in class week after week, minimising serious interruption to schoolwork. It is important, however, that parents recognise and accept that enrolling children into Instrumental Music lessons that Tutors are not able to accommodate parental requests for lesson times outside of class time.



MISSED LESSONS

STAFF ABSENCE
Lessons missed due to Instrumental Music Staff being absent from school will be made up. In special circumstances where it is difficult to make up lessons, either a credit or refund of that lesson will be given.

SCHOOL EXCURSIONS / CAMPS / SIS SPORT / ACTIVITIES
Lessons missed due to school-organised activities, will wherever possible, be made up. If your child cannot attend their lesson due to another commitment, please ensure you inform your child's Instrumental Music Tutor and a make-up lesson will be arranged. Instrumental Tutor's can be contacted via e-mail.

STUDENT ILLNESS
If your child is unwell and won't be attending school on the day of a music lesson please ensure you inform the Tutor before 8:30am that morning, and a make-up lesson can be arranged.

HOLIDAYS OR PERSONAL ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE SCHOOL TERMS
It is important that parents understand when making arrangements to take children on holidays or personal activities during school terms, the School Instrumental Music Policy does not expect or require Instrumental Music Tutor's to make up missed lessons. Missed lessons will be charged at the normal rate.

EXTENDED LEAVE
If a family is away on extended leave (four or more weeks) during the School term, missed lessons are not required to be rescheduled by the Instrumental Music Tutor unless two weeks notice has been given via e-mail to them (for our records). In that case, lessons are credited and will be made up upon the student's return to school. Parents are to ensure that Instrumental Music Tutor's are notified well in advance for this to happen.

Please be aware that it is your child's responsibility to notify their classroom teacher that they must leave to attend their music lesson. If they forget to attend there will be no make-up lesson.

TIMETABLING OF LESSONS
A lesson timetable will be provided to both the student and parent/guardian at the beginning of each term. A copy is also available on SEQTA Documents. It is solely the student's responsibility to confirm lesson times each week.

ARRANGING MAKE-UP LESSONS
Any make-up lessons are to be arranged directly with the Instrumental Music Tutor via e-mail.

WITHDRAWING FROM INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LESSONS
A Cancellation of Instrumental Music Form must be completed to withdraw from music lessons. This will enable the Finance team to adjust fees accordingly. Please fill out a cancellation form.

CONTACTING THE COLLEGE
Any general messages/inquiries regarding Instrumental Music lessons should be sent to Mr Leak at cleak@sjrc.vic.edu.au. Please include "Music Lesson" as the subject.

Any specific messages/inquiries should be sent as a direct message to your child's Instrumental Music Tutor via e-mail.

OTHER
By reading this information you are acknowledging that you have read and understood these guidelines. The Arts & Engagement Co-ordinator reserves the right to exercise discretion in the above circumstances.

ENSEMBLES AND CHOIR

At St John's Regional College we consider it important to offer a well balanced, interesting, and varied educational experience. An important aspect of a musical education is ensemble work. Playing with peers is a great way to develop part work, tuning, rhythm and phrasing skills.

When a student undertaking lessons is at a suitable skill level, they will be required to participate in one or more core ensemble weekly rehearsals that suits their level of learning (subject to teacher recommendation). Participation is an essential component of the program as it provides your child with group performance opportunities and ensemble skills. Ensemble rehearsals are held once per week; either before or after school, or lunchtime.

The College provides several core ensembles. Students are expected to be responsible members and abide by the requests of the Ensemble Leader or Choral Director. Continued involvement in ensembles and choir is based upon regular attendance at practices, co-operation with the Ensemble Leader and/or Choral Director and meeting an appropriate standard (as determined by the Leader of the ensemble or choir).

Students involved in ensembles must make a commitment to attend regular during or before/after-school practices and rehearsals as a condition of membership.

Students who learn instruments outside of the College, are invited to participate in ensembles, providing they are at an appropriate standard (as determined by the Leader of the ensemble).



INSTRUMENT HIRE

St John's Regional College is able to assist parents with the hiring of instruments. Please contact Mr Leak for further information.

Students are encouraged to purchase their own instrument if they continue learning an instrument beyond their first year. It is important to note that students who are learning on their own instrument are more likely to continue learning an instrument that students who are using a hired instrument.

HOME PRACTICE

Home practice is key to successful musical development. Without regular home practice, students do not maintain the sequential development needed to become successful on a musical instrument. The time spent on home practice will vary depending upon the age and maturity of the child. The Instrumental Music Tutor's at SJRC will assist you in determining a suitable amount of home practice time.

Parents are the key to making home practice a positive experience for their children. Make home practice a priority and provide a quiet and regular home practice environment. Take an interest, provide praise and support and contact the Instrumental Tutor if you have a problem.



AMEB MUSIC EXAMS

Opportunity exists for students to undertake AMEB Exams, however, it is not compulsory for students learning an instrument at St John's Regional College to undertake these exams.

Parents are invited to discuss their child's participation in AMEB Exams with their child's Instrumental Music Tutor if they are interested in this option.

The Instrumental Music Tutor reserves the right to advise parents about the appropriateness of AMEB Exams for their child. Consideration needs to be given to the child's capability, level of ability, and preparedness to practice for participation in AMEB Exams. Please discuss this with your child's Instrumental Music Tutor to ensure an informed decision is made.

There is an AMEB Exam Fee for students undertaking AMEB Exams. Parents of children undertaking AMEB Exams will be invoiced for this fee.

HOME PRACTICE TIPS FOR PARENTS

You can help your child gain success on their instrument by:

- Showing an interest in the music study of your child.
- Helping arrange a regular time for practice.
- Helping locate a quiet place for practice, free from interruptions, improper temperatures, poor lighting or noises.
- Helping your child with practice if you can.
- Not making fun of strange sounds you may hear.
- Having patience with your child's progress.
- Helping to remind your child of practice time.
- Helping your child to find a safe place to store their instrument.
- Keeping instruments in good repair.
- Encouraging your child to perform for others when the opportunity arises; in the home, at school, at church, in the community and for relatives.
- Attending scheduled music concerts and events.
- Encouraging your child to listen to recorded and live music.
- Having practice objectives in mind before beginning practice. Isolate problem areas in music and work on these at the onset of practice.
- Having your child work on a section of the piece that is difficult.
- Having your child maintain good posture while practicing. Unless the instrument makes it impossible, stand up to practice.
- Having your child play in front of a mirror, frequently checking for good posture, embouchure and hand position. A music stand for home practice is essential for instruments other than piano.
- Ensuring your child's music books and equipment are taken to school on your child's lesson day.
- Remembering that several short practices weekly are more beneficial than longer practices.

If you have any further questions, comments, or concerns regarding your child's instrumental musical education please feel free to contact Mr Leak or any of the Instrumental Music Tutors.

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2027 INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC ENROLMENT FORM

St. John's Regional College offers individual and group Instrumental Music lessons to students interested in extending their musical development. If you would like your child to participate, please complete the form below and return to Main Reception or email: instrumental_music@sjrc.vic.edu.au

☐ **I have read, understood, and accept the terms outlined in the Instrumental Music Policy Handbook (located on the school website).**

Parent/Guardian Name:

Email Address

Student First Name & Surname

Year Level / House

Please select lesson type:

☐ **Individual 30 minute lessons $359.00 per term**

☐ **Group 30 minute lessons $252.00 per term**

NOTE: Shared lessons are not available for Piano (Exception: Year 7 Beginners)

Please select the instrument your child wishes to learn (may select multiple but subject to Tutor availability)

☐ **Bass Guitar** ☐ **Flute** ☐ **Saxophone** ☐ **Guitar** ☐ **Clarinet** ☐ **Trumpet**

☐ **Drums** ☐ **Violin** ☐ **Piano** ☐ **Voice** ☐ **Cello** ☐ **Trombone**

I wish to hire the following instrument (if available) via the SJRC bond system (see Mr Christopher Leak or the Finance Department for more information):

☐ **Guitar (Acoustic)** ☐ **Flute** ☐ **Trumpet** ☐ **Saxophone**

☐ **Clarinet** ☐ **Violin** ☐ **Trombone**

You and your child will receive a confirmation email once lessons have been set up.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Form Received: **Date Tutor Notified:**

Music Charges Raised: **Actioned By:**

Contact Details

Arts & Engagement Coordinator	Mr Christopher Leak	cleak@sjrc.vic.edu.au
Classroom Music Teacher	Mr Lorenzo Diab	ldiab@sjrc.vic.edu.au
Office Administration (Finance)		instrumental_music@sjrc.vic.edu.au
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC STAFF:		
Guitar / Bass / Drums	Mr Montel Thomas	mt.mthomas@sjrc.vic.edu.au
Piano	Mr Clayton Wilson	mt.cwilson@sjrc.vic.edu.au
Voice	Ms Perri Espinoza	mt.pespinoza@sjrc.vic.edu.au
Flute / Saxophone	Mr Christopher Leak	cleak@sjrc.vic.edu.au
Violin	Ms Perri Espinoza	mt.pespinoza@sjrc.vic.edu.au



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