Instrumental Music
at MECS
2013
Why get involved in instrumental music?

Here’s what the students say:

“You get to feel good at something.”

“You get to play at recitals and special events.”

“Sometimes you play music games in lessons to help you learn something better.”

“It helps you get into the band at church.”

“It helps with other subjects, because it includes reading and writing and maths.”

“It helps you relax at home.”

“You get good at practicing something to get better.”

“The teachers are nice.”

Instrumental tuition options for 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Junior Primary</th>
<th>Middle Primary</th>
<th>Senior Primary</th>
<th>Secondary</th>
<th>Parents</th>
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<tr>
<td>Piano (individual)</td>
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<td>Keyboard (individual)</td>
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<td>Guitar</td>
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<td>Bass Guitar</td>
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<td>Drum kit</td>
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<td>Voice – jazz/contemporary</td>
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<td>Voice – classical</td>
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**Instrumental Tuition Fees**

In 2013 the fees are as follows:

- 30 min Private lesson – $31.00 per lesson
- 45 min Private lesson – $46.50 per lesson
- 30 min Paired lesson (2 students) – $20.00 per student/per lesson
- 45 min Paired lesson – $30.00 per student/per lesson
- 30 min Group lesson (3 or more students) – $14.50 per student/per lesson
- 45 min Group lesson (3 or more students) – $22 per student/per lesson
- 60 min Private lesson – $62 per lesson

Students involved in school ensembles will be charged a small contribution (currently $12 per term).

(See [Ensemble and other commitments](#) for further information).

**Instrument Hire**

The school has several instruments for hire. If you would like to hire an instrument (excluding drums, piano/keyboard), please indicate this on the enrolment form (enclosed). An amount of approx $20 – $30 per term (depending on the instrument) will be added to your tuition account.

**Lesson Times**

Lessons are held during school hours (except by special arrangement with the teacher). They last 30 mins, with a 45 min option for more advanced students. Lessons may be on a rotating timetable, so students are not missing the same lesson every week, although some teachers and students prefer a set time.

**Private Lessons**

Private lessons have the advantage of much more individual attention for the student. It is expected that students who develop a serious interest in their instrument during group lessons, will seek to move to private lessons for this reason.

**Paired or Group Lessons**

Paired or group lessons are offered at the teacher’s discretion, where compatible students have enrolled.

Group lessons have the benefit of students learning from, and being encouraged by, peers. They are also less expensive for parents. Two friends who wish to take up singing or violin, for example, will find this a great way to start.
Materials

Students will be required to purchase their own lesson book, to ensure that copyright laws are not infringed. The Instrumental Teacher will advise students of which books they need to purchase.

Ensembles and other commitments

As an instrumental student, there is an expectation that they will be involved in the appropriate school ensemble, when the school is able to provide for it. Choirs and bands are an excellent way to develop musicianship and performance skills.

There are a number of performance opportunities each year. These include evening and lunchtime recitals for instrumental students, and other school and community functions by invitation. Students involved in school ensembles will be charged a small contribution (currently $12 per term).

Practice expectations will depend on the instrument, age and level. Please talk to the teacher personally.

The Instrumental Performance Coordinator is Annora Hummerston.

Absences and school excursions

If an instrumental student is absent or away on an excursion, the missed lessons will be held in credit if you have provided the teacher with adequate notice. Please let the Instrumental Teachers know in advance about any excursions or camps. In the case of sudden illness, please ring the school office by 9am on 9738 6000. Otherwise, the lesson fee may be forfeited.

If your teacher is absent, he or she will contact either you or the school, and the lesson will either be made up or credited to you.
**Finishing lessons**

If a student is terminating instrumental lessons, it is important to give written notification to the Tuition Coordinator 4 weeks in advance or payment for four lessons will apply. You can leave a note or fill in a termination form at the office.

**Communicating with your teacher**

Please feel free to contact the Instrumental Teacher with any concerns. The teacher will give out their phone number for this purpose, or you can leave a message at the school instrumental office on 9738 6067 for the teacher to ring you back.

Many teachers use an exercise book to jot down lesson notes. This is also used for communication between home and school, and may be the easiest form of communication for you.

**Other Instruments**

If you are looking for tuition in an instrument other than the ones offered, the Instrumental Tuition coordinator may be able to put you in touch with teachers outside school.

**And Finally...**

Enjoy the experience! If you have any queries or concerns, contact your teacher in the first instance. Otherwise, contact the **Instrumental Tuition Coordinator, Kerrie Handasyde**, at the music office on 9738 6067: drop a note in at the front office or email khandasyde@mecs.vic.edu.au (Kerrie is not in every day, so please leave your phone number.)
Your responsibilities

To contact the school if your child is going to be absent:
- In the case of camps/excursions, do this at least the week before.
- In the case of illness, ring 9738 6067 by 9am.

To settle fees within 30 days:
- If this is difficult, please make alternative payment arrangements with the office within that time period.

To discuss any concerns with the relevant person:
- Your child’s learning needs with the teacher.
- Queries about fees or enrolment with the Instrumental Tuition Coordinator.

Provide four weeks notice in writing if your child is:
- Terminating lessons during the school year. Please complete the ‘Terminating Instrumental Lessons’ form available from the school office.

Look after any instrument hired from the school:
- In accordance with the hire agreement (separate form available from the office).

The Instrumental Teacher’s responsibilities

- Teachers provide weekly lessons unless notified otherwise.
- If a teacher is absent due to sudden illness, the teacher will ring the school to have a message posted on the music room door. At times teachers will make separate arrangements with the student.
- Teachers will endeavour to make up missed lessons. Otherwise, the lesson fee will be credited on the next invoice.
- Teachers will discuss items of concern with parents by phone or note in the student’s exercise book/folder.
- Instrumental reports are sent home with school reports each semester.

The School’s responsibilities

- Invoices, payable to MECS, will be sent out at the beginning of each term. (Please contact Craig Goldsmith in School Office 9738 6000 for any account queries).
- Hire instruments will be maintained, where normal wear and tear applies (see hire agreement, available from the office).
- The Instrumental Tuition Coordinator is available as a contact point for any concerns.
- The school regularly provides performance opportunities for all students. Ensembles are also conducted where possible.
- You will receive notice of these via newsletters and notices sent home via students.
- Changes to fees or other details will be notified by the school.
Instrumental Music 2013
Enrolment Form

Please return this slip to the school office

Enrolling students will be assigned to an Instrumental Teacher at the Tuition Coordinator's discretion.

Name: ________________________________________________________________

Year/Class: ________ Instrument: ________________________________

Parent/Guardian Name/s: ________________________________

Phone/s Nos: _________________________________________________

Skill Level:

☐ Beginner (new to instrumental tuition)
☐ Have learned instrument previously (please give details):

________________________________________________________________

Lesson requested:

☐ 30 mins private lesson (usual)
☐ 45 mins private lesson (advanced students)
☐ paired/group lesson requested (if available)
  ☐ I would like to enrol (in private lessons) if this option is not available at the moment
  ☐ I only want to enrol for paired lessons
☐ instrument hire requested if available (not available for drums or piano/keyboard)
☐ I have read the Information Booklet “Instrumental Music at MECS” and understand the terms of enrolment.

Parent Signature: ________________________________ Date: _______________