



DALBY STATE SCHOOL

MUSIC HANDBOOK



Classroom Music Teacher and Choral Director

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INTRODUCTION

Music education is an important part of the school curriculum at Dalby State School. It has maintained a standard of excellence for some years and was officially recognised as a Music Program of Excellence at the end of 2016.

Studies have shown that participation in music has a positive impact on the development of the brain and neuromuscular system. It develops academic and social skills, discipline and commitment, which can contribute to emotional development and self-worth.

The personal enrichment experienced by young musicians helps them to understand the benefits of sharing the gift of music with their peers and the intrinsic value of music within society. Above all, music should be an enjoyable experience: enriching lives and providing stimulation, relaxation and fun!



THE MUSIC PROGRAM

The Dalby State School Music Program provides a wide range of musical experiences for the children, both in the classroom and in learning enhancement opportunities.

Participation in Instrumental or Choral performance groups encourages the pursuit of excellence and provides extension opportunities for gifted musicians. The performance program allows students to develop their full musical potential.

FRIENDS OF MUSIC (FOM)

A group of dedicated parents meet with the Music staff twice a term to discuss musical matters and conduct fundraising activities. Friends of Music also assist with the organisation of school concerts, school musical, CGEN voices and CGEN, Fanfare, Dalby Eisteddfod, community performances and uniforms.

The co-ordinator of the Friends of Music reports to the P&C, and via email, organises assistance for each event. Parents are invited to join this group by attending the first meeting or providing their email address to the Music Line Manager (as listed on the front of the Handbook) to help maintain this excellent program. A FOM co-ordinator will be decided upon at the first meeting of the year.

The Music Program of Dalby SS is supported by the efforts of the Friends of Music group as the majority of funding comes from the school and student fees.

CLASSROOM MUSIC

Mr Ben McPherson is our Classroom Music Specialist who conducts classroom music lessons for all year levels each week. His curriculum is aligned to the Australian Curriculum and evident in our Prep to Year 6 Curriculum Framework.

CHORAL MUSIC PROGRAM

The Dalby State School Choral Program consists of four choirs:

- *Prep and Yr1 Choir*
- *Junior Singers - Yr 2 and 3*
- *Senior Singers - Yr 4, 5 and 6*
- *CGEN Choir for selected student from Years 4, 5 and 6 **

All children are taught to sing at our school and everyone is encouraged to join a choir. No audition is necessary to participate in the choral program. The choirs are an extension of the classroom music curriculum. Children are asked to make a commitment to attend rehearsals and performances. To join a choir, children simply attend rehearsal at the appropriate time.

The exception to this is our CGEN choir. Dalby SS participate in Creative Generations every second year and this is an audition only group. This audition process takes place the year before the event as registration and numbers are due before the school year commences. The CGEN choir is selected at the end of the previous year. Our school participates in CGEN in even numbered years.

The choral program encourages singers to become better musicians by developing good vocal technique, performance and musicality skills. Participation in the program assists children to develop a sense of self-confidence and enrichment as they experience a wide variety of artistic endeavours. Attendance at rehearsals is recorded and the children's participation is acknowledged on their end of semester reports.

Rehearsals for each choir are:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| • <i>Junior Singers</i> | Monday | 11.00am - 12.15pm (Music Room) |
| • <i>CGEN Choir</i> | Tuesday | 11.00am - 12.15pm (Music Room) |
| • <i>Senior Singers</i> | Wednesday | 11.00am - 12.15pm (Music Room) |
| • <i>Prep/1 Choir</i> | Thursday | 11.00am - 12.15pm (Music Room) |

Choirs perform at the Dalby Show, Dalby Eisteddfod, CGEN Voices, Creekside Markets and a variety of other community functions.

Every second year (odd years - alternating with Creative Generations), students from Years 4, 5 and 6 (including choir members) have the opportunity to participate in a School Musical Production. The Musical is performed in October of that year.



Children from Yr 4, 5 and 6 have the opportunity to participate in the Instrumental Program (fees apply).

Students are offered the opportunity to play Woodwind, Brass and Percussion.
Instrumental Teachers conduct free half hour group lessons during the school day.

Children receiving lessons at school must:

- Participate in a band appropriate to their standard.
- Take part in concerts and other school activities.
- Attend lessons and rehearsals regularly as required.
- Keep the instrument in good repair.

It is extremely important that parents/guardians arrange to have their child/children present at such activities – as it is part of being a member of a TEAM. If for some circumstance a child/children are unavailable, please ensure that the teacher is informed as early as possible so that other arrangements can be made for their part.

Parents must provide tutor books, reeds, strings (bass guitar) and other accessories as required by the instrumental teachers.



SELECTION OF STUDENTS

All Yr 3 students receive a note in term 3 regarding band selection. Students entering the school from outside of catchment and new students to the school between Years 4 - 6 are also eligible to apply.

As numbers exceed places in the program, a selection/audition process is utilised. This includes the following criteria:

- Aural tests
- Musical aptitude displayed by the student in class music lessons
- Child's school report
- Consultation with the class teacher/parent
- Physical characteristics (eg size of hands, teeth etc)
- Access to an instrument
 - student owns an instrument
 - student hires a school instrument for which there are waiting lists of students meeting the above criteria

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT HIRE

The school owns a limited number of instruments that are for the use of Beginner students, depending on availability. Popular instruments such as flutes, clarinets, saxophones and trumpets will not always be available in sufficient quantities to meet student demands; therefore, children must fulfil the above criteria before the instrument can be allocated.

The instrument can be borrowed for a period of one year for most instruments. Larger, more expensive instruments can be hired for longer at the discretion of the Instrumental teacher and the school.

If a school instrument is not available, we suggest the student tries another instrument that is available, or hire an instrument from a music store.

Where to hire or buy an instrument

There are a number of musical instrument retailers in Dalby, Toowoomba and Brisbane that offer quality service and competitive prices. Some of these include:

- Brass Music Specialists - Gracemere (also have Woodwind instruments)
- Ellaways Music Store - Kedron
- Allans Billy Hyde - Windsor
- WoodsWind & Brass - Deception Bay
- O'Sheas Electrical - Dalby
- Bandland - Toowoomba

SCHOOL INSTRUMENT HIRE / MUSIC LEVY/CHORAL LEVY

A levy system is in place to help defray the costs of the music program. Costs are incurred in the maintenance, repairs and replacement of school instruments, purchasing band and ensemble music, photocopying and other necessary materials to keep the program going.

General Subject Levy (*everyone pays including students with their own instrument*)

\$100.00 per year

SERVICE OF SCHOOL INSTRUMENT

The instrumental teacher will identify a problem with an instrument and the instrument is then sent for repairs. The cost of repairs is the responsibility of the school unless we identify wilful damage or negligence.

NEVER ATTEMPT TO REPAIR AN INSTRUMENT



STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

- Instrument
- Tutor Book - Essential Elements
- Band Folder (A4 Display Book)
- Pencil and eraser (for band practice)
- Music Stand (for home practice)

(Note: The school provides music stands for lessons, rehearsals and performances)

ACCESSORIES

WOODWIND:

Flute

Cleaning cloth, Cleaning rod, Polish Cloth

Clarinet/Saxophone

Cleaning swab, Reeds 4 x Size 2, 1 reed guard, cork grease, a mouthpiece patch, thumb cushion

BRASS:

Trumpet/Euphonium/Tenor Horn/Tuba

Valve oil, tuning slide grease

Trombone

Tuning slide cream, small spray bottle

French Horn

Cloth, 1 bottle rotary valve oil

PERCUSSION:

Drum sticks – 1 pair 5B, 1 practice pad

*(Note: Students must bring **all** requirements to **each** lesson/rehearsal)*

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL

The Music Department will send regular notices to parents regarding music rehearsals, events and competitions held throughout the year.

In the event of a rehearsal or lesson being cancelled due to staff absence, students will be advised verbally and where possible parents will be sent a text message or contacted by phone. Information will also be posted on the Dalby State School Facebook page.



CONCERT BANDS / STAGE BAND

AUDITIONS

There are no auditions for Concert or Beginner Band. It is an expectation that all students participate in these ensembles where appropriate.

Auditions may be held for Stage Band if numbers are excessive.

Out of Catchment students will be required to follow the school selection/audition process to gain entry into the program.

CONCERT BAND

- Concert Band is for all students who have played their instrument for more than 12 months. Rehearsals commence in Week 3.
- Rehearsals are every **Thursday afternoon** from **3.00pm – 4.30pm**.
- Regular attendance at rehearsals and instrumental lessons is essential. If a student is unable to attend, a note or email from a parent or guardian must be presented to the conductor.
- **Mrs Rachael Summerville** conducts the Concert Band.

BEGINNER BAND

- Beginner Band is for all students in their first 12 months of playing. Rehearsals commence in Week 5 of Term 1.
- Rehearsals are **Wednesday** morning from **8.15am – 9.00am**.
- **Mrs Rachael Summerville** conducts the Beginner Band.

STAGE BAND

- Stage Band is made up of Saxophones, Trumpets, Trombones and Rhythm Section.
- Rehearsals are every **Thursday** from **8.00am – 9.00am**.
- **Mr Ben McPherson** conducts the Stage Band.



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC AWARD

Each year an Instrumental Music Award is awarded according to the following criteria. It is presented to one student. The criteria are:

- A senior student who has been involved in the Instrumental program for at least 12 months
- A strong commitment to the Instrumental Program including attendance at both lessons & performances
- Displays exemplary behaviour and initiative with set up & packing away in both lessons and performances
- Plays their instrument proficiently and shows dedication to not only their own personal development and improvement, but also the program

A panel comprising of the Instrumental Music Teachers, the Music Line Manager and a Parent representative, will choose the recipient of this award. The Parent representative must not have a child in Year 6.

HINTS FOR SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE

Parental encouragement during the first year is most important and encouraging your child to practise every day and play to you will mean that progress will be noticeably quicker. Making sounds, holding a new instrument and reading music all take time, but the rewards are many and definitely worthwhile!

Read this with your parents then follow the hints to make your practice time more enjoyable and successful.

1. Find a place where you won't be disturbed.
2. Place your music on a music stand or in a position where you can play comfortably.
3. Start with something you can play well and enjoy.
4. Practice some exercises for a few minutes.
5. Now work on the new piece or the difficult piece from your last lesson.



- Play the piece right through slowly.
 - Start at the beginning again. When you come to a difficult bit, stop – decide which notes are giving you trouble & practice them slowly over & over again. Do not play them faster until you can do them easily.
 - Do the same with any other difficult sections in the piece.
 - Play the whole piece through again slowly.
 - Play the whole piece through at the correct speed with the Interactive program if possible.
6. Now work on a piece you know quite well, but would like to know better. Listen critically to the sound you are making and try to play as beautifully as possible.
 7. Reward yourself for your good work by ending with a favourite piece.

If you are having trouble

- Are you sure you know the notes?
- Do you understand the timing?
(Take the trouble to work these things out and if you still can't manage, ask for help at the next lesson.)
- Then fill in the practice record for the day.