

2018



John Purchase Public School Band Programme



Information Booklet

A Word from the Band Committee

John Purchase has a proud tradition of excellence with its band program and we take great pride in giving children at the school the opportunity to learn and instrument and grow musically. Our bands have been very successful over the years and have won numerous awards for their efforts. A lot of our students are sought after for High School Bands because of their abilities.

Every year we are amazed that we can take students that cannot play or read music and within the year turn them into a band. There is no greater praise than the expressions on new band parents faces at the Band Camp concert when they hear the Training Band play.

As a volunteer committee we offer what we consider to be a comprehensive music program that caters for a very diverse range of musical abilities. Naturally as part of the program your child will learn to play an instrument but, it is learning to play together as a band that adds the extra dimension to their musical education and develops skills that will help them in all sorts of non musical ways as well.

The Band Committee is committed to ensuring that the band program is as musically accessible as possible to our students and as financially accessible as possible to parents and we hope to see your child as part of the program.

JPPS Band Committee



Band Program Goals

- To give students the opportunity to learn and experience music.
- To make the program as accessible as possible to all students at the school by keeping fees low and providing instrument hire.
- To instill a sense of team spirit and a sense of responsibility in all band members.

Our Bands

John Purchase offers several bands that perform at different levels to meet the various musical abilities of our students. All our bands are what are referred to as concert bands comprising woodwind, brass, percussion, keyboards and bass guitar. Please note our Band Program does not cater for string instruments.

The Training Band

The Training Band as the name suggests, is for those students with little or no musical experience. Entry into the Training Band is for Year 3 - Year5 students. Students normally spend at least a year in the training band before moving up to the next band.

Higher Level Bands

The JPPS Band Program has either one or two higher-level bands depending on the number and ability of students in the program. At present there is one band higher than the Training band, called the Concert Band composed of semi-experienced children. As the number of students in the program tends to go in cycles it is likely that over time we may introduce another band.

Moving up from the Training Band is automatic but the conductor may choose to audition students for positions in the Concert Band. The conductor may also choose to hold back students that they feel need additional time in the Training band.



Joining the Band

Normally students join the band through our annual intake process that takes place in term 4 each year. All students from Year 2 or up will be given the opportunity to try some instruments during class time. No previous music experience is required from students. At this event students will receive a note informing them which instrument is best suited to them. Then all interested parents can attend our annual Band Information Night (see school calendar for dates).

When the student and family are ready to make the commitment they can enrol using our online website

www.myschoolmusic.com.au/jpps

Please note that the band program only takes students from Years 3 and above. There are only a limited number of places in our band program and although we will try to take as many students as we can there is the possibility that your child may not be accepted.

For those that are joining the band program outside of our normal intake process you can contact the band committee by email at JPPSBandCommittee@gmail.com We can organise for your child to attend one of the band rehearsals to see what is involved. Our band director will then determine which band best suits your child's abilities and if there is a vacancy they will become a band member.



Rehearsals

Each band rehearses at the school once a week during term. Rehearsals are compulsory for all band members and are very important as this is where they receive instruction from the band director and learn to play as a group. If your child cannot make the commitment to rehearsals we would suggest the band program is not for you.

Rehearsal days and times for the coming year are detailed separately within this booklet. Confirmation of these details will be sent to band parents before the start of first term next year.

All band members are expected to arrive promptly.

We take attendance at rehearsals very seriously. Band members that are consistently late or fail to turn up to rehearsals not only let themselves down but their fellow band members. Playing in a band is a team activity. Children who do not attend rehearsals on a regular basis may be asked why they should remain in the program. We keep a rehearsal attendance roll and if your child is consistently late we will contact you to ask for an explanation. If your child is unable to attend for any reason we ask that you let us know by email prior to the rehearsal if possible. If proper reason is not provided, we reserve the right to remove your child from the band program. Fees will not be refunded. All band members and parents are required to sign a JPPS Band Code of Conduct at the beginning of each school year.

Please note there are no rehearsals on pupil free days or public holidays.



Private Tuition

All band students are required to obtain private music tuition. Tuition is absolutely essential, not only for learning an instrument but to keep up with the band program. We would stress that it is very important to find a qualified music tutor for your child. Having them tutored by someone without music teaching qualifications is doing a great disservice to your child and may not provide them with the knowledge and support they need to start to play an instrument properly for the first time.

We recommend that you shop around for a tutor. A large part of making tuition successful is a good connection between your child and the tutor. If a tutor does not appear to be working for your child, discuss this with your tutor and outline your expectations. If it is still not working then shop around until you find a tutor that does work. Just remember you are paying for the service and you should be getting good value for it.

To make things a little simpler we have put a tutor list on our website. 30 mins private lesson each week during school term is highly recommended for each student. Tutors range in price from \$15-\$35 per half hour session depending on the experience of the tutor. Some tutors work individually from their own homes while others make home visits. All arrangements for tuition are between you and the tutor and their fees **are not included** as part of the band program.



Music Examinations

Although by no means compulsory, we do encourage our band members to further their music skills by sitting for formal music examinations. This not only helps your child gain a more formal musical education but helps to raise the standard of the band program. By attaining a music examination level your child will be much better placed to advance to the next band level and will be well placed to continue a band career in High School.

Organisations such as AMEB run music examination programs for all instruments and musical abilities. Most music tutors will be able to organise and prepare your child for the appropriate examination level. Please note that music examinations are something that you do outside the band program and you will be responsible for the cost associated with it.

Band Fees

The JPPS Band program is run as an extracurricular activity for the students at John Purchase and as such there are costs associated with operating it. Please refer to the fees schedule.

Annual Fee

There is an annual fee that covers;

- payment to our band conductor
- payment to our tutors during workshop and band camp
- uniform shirt,
- music folders,
- purchase of sheet music
- band camp,
- band workshop
- entry to one music eisteddfod.
- general band administration

The Band Committee's intent is to try to keep the cost of the program as affordable as possible for parents and it shall remain our goal. Although the cost may seem high, we actually have the most affordable band program in the area by far.



Instrument Hire

The Band Program has a limited range of instruments for hire including flutes, clarinets, saxophones (alto and tenor), trumpets, trombones, bass guitars and amplifiers, and, drum kits. Hiring is a great way to start with instruments as it means you do not have to commit to purchasing one just to have your child decide it's all too hard.

Instruments are hired out on a first come, first served basis for the whole year. A refundable deposit is required to secure an instrument with a refund subject to the terms and conditions of hire.

The Hire Agreement will last for the length of your child's membership with the Band unless you terminate the hire agreement beforehand. By default you will keep the hired instrument over the Christmas break into the following year unless you return the instrument to us before the end of Term 4. You can rehire an instrument at any time after this if you wish.

During the hire period the servicing, repair and care of the hired instrument is your responsibility. We provide the instrument to you in a serviced condition and we expect it to be cared for as if the instrument was owned by you. When returning the instrument, you have to get it serviced and provide us with a receipt. Consult the Instrument Hire Agreement for terms and conditions.

Instruments returned in a damaged or non-functional state will be repaired or serviced and the cost taken from your instrument deposit. If the repair or service is more than that the deposit the balance will be charged back to you.

Students who play percussion or keyboard don't hire instruments but are charged a fee to use the band's percussion instruments and keyboards during the year.

If you would like your child to start learning an instrument over the Christmas break so they can get a head start for next year, you can arrange to hire before the end of term 4. Please contact the Band Committee for any special arrangement.



Buying your Child an Instrument

Although hiring is a great way to get your child started there will likely be a point where you may decide that your child's interests are best served by owning their own instrument. There is no doubt that this is a more expensive option and in order to give you some idea the table below shows indicative price ranges for various entry level (referred to as Student) instruments.

Instrument	Entry Level Price
Clarinet	\$535 - \$700
Flute	\$475 - \$700
Saxophone (Alto)	\$900 - \$1300
Saxophone (Tenor)	\$1200 - \$2000
Trumpet	\$500 - \$800
Trombone	\$900 - \$1200
French Horn	\$1560 - \$2500
Euphonium	\$1800-\$2500
Bass Guitar	\$300 - \$400

Prices are subject to change



What the Band Program Will Cost You

The Band Program like most other extracurricular activities has its associated costs. These include:

- Private tuition (required by every child in the Band Program)
- Instrument Hire or purchase
- Band fees (which include rehearsals, workshops and band camp)

Band Fees and Instrument Hire rates for the John Purchase Band Program are provided in separate schedules at the end of this document. When working out the affordability of the Band Program you will need to consider the Band Fees, Instrument hire or purchase, and the cost of private tuition before making a commitment

Fee Discounts

We are sensitive to the extra financial burden on the family budget of having more than one child in the band. Hence we offer fee discounts should you be in this position.

1st Child Full Fee

Every subsequent sibling will pay 85% of full fee (15% discount)

A 20% discount on fees is offered to all Band Committee members In lieu of the work they do in running the program.

Payment Options

Full payment is required by the end of term one. This ensures we can cover the costs of our band camp. Payment can be made by credit card or direct bank deposit. Please do not pay in cash as we cannot guarantee the security of your payments. As the band program is a not for profit program, prompt payment of fees is appreciated to ensure continued band membership. If payments are not made in full by the due dates, children will not be allowed to attend band camp or band performances.



Leaving the Band Program

If for some reason your child needs to terminate their band membership you need to follow these steps:

- 1) Complete the Termination Notice which can be found under the Band section of the P&C section of the school website www.johnpurchase.net.
- 2) Hand this notice to a Band Committee member or email the Band Committee at JPPSBandCommittee@gmail.com
- 3) If you have hired an instrument you will need to have it serviced or repaired prior to returning it.
- 4) If you have hired an instrument you will be contacted to arrange a suitable time to return it. You must bring documentation from an approved service agent to prove that the instrument has been serviced. DO NOT return the instrument to the school office it must be checked by a Band Committee member.
- 5) Pay any outstanding fees. If you are unsure please contact the Band Treasurer at JPPSBandTreasurer@outlook.com

Please note that our band fees are set based on catering for a specific number of children in the program. This is done in order to keep the fees as low as possible. For this reason we do not refund band fees once they have been paid.

Band Members in Year 6 will automatically have their band membership terminated at the end of their final year and there is no need to notify us of termination in this case.



Band Activities

The following Band Activities are compulsory and you will need to personally speak to our Band Conductor if you can't make it. We do not take out of school tutoring/lessons as excuses.

Band Camp

We hold an annual band camp for all band members. The camp is the biggest event on the Band calendar and is run by the band committee with support from teaching staff and band parents. The camp is run over two days during the school week, with an overnight stay for older band members. At the camp we provide intensive music tuition and rehearsals mixed in with lots of fun activities and good food. The cost of the band camp is included in your annual fees.

Band Workshop

Every year the Band has a one day Workshop for all Band Members. This is usually held on the School Development Day at the beginning of Term 2 at the school. The Workshop is a concentrated set of tutorials and rehearsals designed to improve the bands' performance in preparation for upcoming eisteddfods.

Band Performances

One of the main reasons that the bands rehearse is to prepare for performances or competitions. These may be:

- Music eisteddfods or competitions
- School assemblies and major school events
- School tours

Every year we will enter each band in local music competitions. This not only keeps the band on their toes and focuses their energies but gives them valuable performance experience. It is the parents responsibility to transport their children to the competition venue.



Band Uniforms

Each band has its own unique attire that they wear for formal performances or competitions. Performance attire is compulsory for these events as the band is representing John Purchase Public School.

As part of band membership each member is required to provide and wear the following items listed in the table below. You will be notified when your child needs to wear them.

Training Band: Yellow polo shirt with band logo (provided by the Band)

Concert Band: White polo shirt with band logo (provided by the Band)

Both bands (parents to purchase):

- Black unisex jeans purchased from Target
- Black crew socks (ankle socks are not accepted)
- Polished black school shoes (Sports shoes or shoes with any colours other than black are not accepted)

Your child may not be allowed to perform if he/she does not wear the appropriate uniform.



Band Leaders

Each year, the Band Section Leaders and Band Captain are appointed by our Band Conductor. Normally these are our more senior students that have shown leadership and guidance to their fellow band members.

Band leaders are chosen based on the following criteria:

- Punctuality and attendance
- Ability to play the instrument well
- Demonstrates leadership skills
- Demonstrates commitment and reliability

We encourage all parents to discuss these criteria with their children when they join the band. All senior students are encouraged to demonstrate the above criteria and set great examples for our younger members.

Band Leader badges are given out at the same time as the SRC Representatives and School Leaders Induction ceremony.

Commitment to the Band Program

We ask that before signing up to the band program, you take the time to understand that there are several key commitments we ask of all band members and their parents. These are:

- You must hire or provide an instrument
- You must provide private music tuition and practice regularly
- Children must attend all rehearsals on time
- Children must attend all scheduled performances

Before joining the band program you should consider the cost and time commitments for you and your child. Only join if you can make the commitment.

The Band Committee

The band program is run by the JPPS Band Committee which is a sub committee of the JPPS P&C Association. The band committee is made up of enthusiastic parents from John Purchase who volunteer their time to run the program. We are always looking for parents to join or participate in the committee as many hands make light work. If you are interested please let us know.

Joining the Committee or Volunteering

As a parent there are two ways you can help the band program.

You can join the band committee in a formal capacity and help run the program or you can become a volunteer helper assisting when you can with rehearsal set up and pack-up or at other band events.

Either way we would appreciate your help.

Communication

The Band Committee keeps touch with parents throughout the year by using email and the school newsletter. It is the parents responsibility to provide the Band Committee with accurate email address and check emails regularly. Our email address is JPPSBandComittee@gmail.com

For most information about the band program we suggest looking on the school website at www.johnpurchase.net. Band information can be found under the P&C menu including upcoming events, forms and this information booklet.

Summary of cost and commitment list

Cost:

Annual band membership fee: \$450

Please refer to fee schedule.

Private tutor lessons cost (one on one):

Approx. \$15-25 per 30 mins – Student tutors

Approx. \$30-40 per 30 mins – Professional tutors

Parents must provide private tutor lessons each week during school terms (30 mins lessons minimum).

Instrument hire or purchase:

Hire: Approx. \$240 for instrument hire (+ \$150 refundable deposit)

Approx. \$60-80 for service each year and before returning instrument to school

Purchase: Approx. \$400-800 for beginner instrument

Approx. \$60-80 for service each year or as needed

Band book:

Approx. \$20

Instrument accessories:

(reeds, music stand, straps etc): From \$100

Uniform:

Approx. \$20 for a pair of band jeans

Exam fees (optional):

From \$200

Things included in band membership fee:

- Payment to our band conductor
- Payment to our tutors during workshop and band camp
- Uniform shirt
- Music folders
- Purchase of sheet music
- Band camp
- Band workshop
- Entry to one music eisteddfod
- General band administration

Time commitment:

- Weekly rehearsal during each school term. Time: 7:30am – 8:30am at the school hall.
- Parents will be on setup (7:10am) /pickup (8:20am) roster and are expected to help out approximately once a term. Parent contact list will be provided if you need to switch your setup/pickup duties with another family. It is parents responsibility to switch with another family if they can't make it.
- Band activities calendar will be given to parents at the beginning of school year which will have the dates of our compulsory activities. We do not accept out of school tutoring/lessons as excuses for not attending compulsory activities.

These activities typically involve:

- Band workshop (First Monday of Term 2)
- Band camp (Mid June, Thursday to Friday)
- Plus one or two competitions (usually weekends)

Band uniform (only required for special occasions such as competitions):

- Band T-shirt with logo (included in membership fee), yellow shirt for Training Band, white shirt for Concert Band
- Band black jeans (parents need to purchase unisex black jeans from Target)
- Black crew socks (ankle socks, and any other colour socks are NOT accepted)
- Polished black school shoes (sports shoes or shoes with any colour other than black are NOT accepted)

Enquiries: JPPSBandCommittee@gmail.com