



Figtree Public School

Respect, Safety, Learning



Education

Gibsons Road

Figtree 2525

Phone: 4271 6888

Figtree-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

30 March 2022

Beginner Band Program 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

The **Wollongong Conservatorium of Music and Figtree Public School** will continue working together to establish a new Beginner Band in Term 2, 2022.

Students from Years 2 - 5 who are interested in playing a wind or brass instrument, are invited to join the beginner band. Please note;

- *Students need NOT have any prior experience to join the band. The program will cater for absolute beginners.*
- *Basic skills and music literacy will be covered in the band class. It would benefit the students to sign up with a teacher at The Wollongong Conservatorium of Music or elsewhere for individual lessons, however it is certainly not a requirement at this stage.*

Instruments offered in beginner band:

FLUTE / CLARINET / SAXOPHONE / TRUMPET / TROMBONE / BARITONE / PERCUSSION / BASS GUITAR

- *If you are unsure about instrument choice, clarinet is a good option. The band will sound good with a large number of clarinets, and it is possible to switch easily to saxophone later if the students want to change.*
- *For the sake of a 'balanced band', places for drums and 'bass guitar' are strictly limited.*

○ **Costs:** The band fee will be approximately \$15/week, however is subject to change slightly based on the number of students in the band. Families will be notified of fees dues and to be paid to the school at the beginning of each term. You will also need to purchase or hire an instrument if you do not already have one.

Materials: Students will need to bring the following Items to each rehearsal: (*see separate info on instruments and materials*):

- Instrument
- method Book – 'Essential Elements Book 1'
- plastic sleeve folder for handouts and additional music
- Pencil



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Commitment: Beginner Band is a one year commitment. Band works best if all students participate fully. To develop skills and musicianship, students need to be consistent in their attendance at rehearsals and performances. Home practice is also essential. Approximately 20 minutes per day, four times per week is the recommended minimum.

Instruments & Materials - Information for Parents

INSTRUMENT (purchase / hire)

Acquiring an instrument is one of the most important aspects of preparing for the students first lessons in band. Regardless of whether you are hiring or buying, new or secondhand – it is definitely worth going for quality.

Please discuss choice of instrument with the band coordinator and conductor during the lead up sessions. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions. The band program caters for the following instruments: *flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone baritone, bass guitar, percussion/drums*

WARNING! Many cheaper wind and brass instruments purchased via the Internet can be very poor quality, and cause significant difficulties with the students' learning. Some reliable name brands for wind and brass instruments are Yamaha, Conn, Jupiter, Selmer, King, Bach. A reputable music shop should be able to give advice on purchasing a quality instrument.

Local Music Shops

- Engadine Music Ph.02 9520 3044 (engadinemusic.com)
- Wollongong Music Centre – 4228 9286 (wollongongmusic.com.au)
- Haworths Guitars (Wollongong) Ph.42252844 (scmusic.com.au)
- South Coast Music / Ph.4421 8688 (scmusic.com.au)

Online Hire

Musicorp (musicorp.com / rental@musicorp.com.au) is the largest online musical instrument hire service in Australia. Parents can hire directly from Musicorp.

School Hire

It may be possible for your school to hire instruments through NSW Public Schools Education department (CARL) Ask your school band coordinator or principal about this option.

METHOD BOOK - Essential Elements Book 1

Our band will use 'Essential Elements Book 1' (Hal Leonard publishing). These books are readily available online and from the music stores mentioned above. Make sure you purchase the book specific to your instrument (eg. Essential Elements Book 1' for Clarinet)



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MUSIC STAND

The school will supply music stands for weekly rehearsals, however it is useful for students to have their own music stand for practicing at home. A music stand promotes good posture and makes practicing more efficient and enjoyable.

OTHER MATERIALS

In addition to their instrument and method book, students should also bring to each rehearsal; a pencil and a folder with A4 plastic inserts for additional print music and other handouts.

The beginner band program will run AFTER school on Wednesdays from 3.10pm – 4.10pm.

If you would like your child to be involved in the Beginner Band Program during 2022 and you can commit to paying the fees for the remainder of this year, please complete the attached Expression of Interest and return to Mrs Diamant in 5/6D by Monday 4 April, 2022. Offers will be made on Thursday 7 April, 2022.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Diamant at the school on (02) 4271 6888.

Kind regards,

Erin Diamant
Band Coordinator

Melissa Harding
Principal



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Figtree Public School Beginner Band 2022 Expression of Interest

Please complete this expression of interest form and return to Mrs Diamant in 5/6D by Monday 4 April, 2022.

Student Name: _____ Class: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Contact Email: _____ Parent Contact Phone: _____

Select up to three choices below (circle your preference). For the sake of a 'balanced band', students will be allocated an instrument from one of their choices. Places for drums and 'bass guitar' are strictly limited.

1st Choice:

FLUTE | CLARINET | SAXOPHONE | TRUMPET | TROMBONE | BARITONE | BASS | DRUMS

2nd Choice:

FLUTE | CLARINET | SAXOPHONE | TRUMPET | TROMBONE | BARITONE | BASS | DRUMS

3rd Choice:

FLUTE | CLARINET | SAXOPHONE | TRUMPET | TROMBONE | BARITONE | BASS | DRUMS

Do you already own, or have access to one of the instruments you have selected?

YES NO (circle one). *Instrument Owned:* _____

Tell us about your music experience. Have you played in a band before? Are you currently taking lessons on an instrument? :
