

Drum-kit/Percussion Handbook

Drum-Kit

- Essentially a collection of percussion instruments to be played by one musician
- Today cheap drum shells are made from plies and Basswood
- More expensive shells are made from Maple, Birch, Oak, Mahogany, Fibreglass and tinted clear Perspex plastic
- A Drum set includes a Bass Drum, Snare Drum, Hi-Hat Cymbals, Tom Toms, Floor Tom, Crash Cymbal, Ride Cymbal and a Splash Cymbal
- Recommended earliest starting grade is Prep



Individual Lesson one student - 30 minutes

- Standard format for instrumental lessons.
- Repertoire and rate of progress is specifically designed for each student.
- Care and attention is taken to establish sound musical and technical facility on the instrument.

Shared Lesson two students - 30 minutes

- This lesson is designed as an introduction to the instrument where beginning students learn the same material.
- Developing students often learn at a different pace and therefore may learn different material. In this case, the shared lesson is frequently divided into 2 x 15 minute sessions.
- The Teacher's time is shared equally between both students. Their rate of progress will not be as fast as for students enrolled in individual lessons.

Lesson Calendar

- Students receive 32 weeks tuition over the course of the year, divided into 3 Cycles.
- For specific dates, please see current Guidelines and Payment Schedule which is a separate document and can be found on the school Website.

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Cycle 1 Mid Feb – Mid May	Cycle 2 Mid May – Mid Aug	Cycle 3 Mid Aug – Nov	Make-up Lessons Nov – Mid Dec
11 lessons	11 lessons	10 lessons	

- Lessons are timetabled throughout the School day.
- They are organized, whenever possible, not to clash with Specialist Class lessons.
- Initial commitment of at least one cycle.
- A student who attends lessons on time and comes fully equipped, benefits most during the total lesson time.
- Lessons may be grouped with other students prior to a performance, in order for small ensembles to rehearse together. These will be arranged at the discretion of the Teacher.

Percussion Ensemble

- Ensemble for drum-kit students are in groups according to level of progress.
- Weekly rehearsals.
- Length of rehearsals is governed by the number of students.
- Designed to reinforce technical grounding covered in lessons.
- Encourages students to play the same material together.
- Prepares students for performing at the Percussion Concert and Showcase.

Solo and Ensemble Performing

- Concerts encourage and motivate a student to focus on a goal.
- The experience develops the student's ability to feel comfortable when performing.
- It highlights the progress of a student from year to year.
- Two major performances are arranged each year.

Percussion Concert – Term 2

- Solos and/or small group items.
- Larger ensembles.
- Students organize the concert; learn stage management and announcing of items.
- Prior to the performance, rehearsals may change time in order for ensembles to rehearse together. These will be arranged at the discretion of the Teacher
- A notice is sent to students a few weeks before the concert.

Showcase – Term 4

- Whole school event which includes choirs, marimba groups and all large instrumental ensembles.
- A combined strings ensemble is rehearsed and prepared for this concert.
- Prior to the performance, rehearsals may change time in order for ensembles to rehearse together. These will be arranged at the discretion of the Teacher.

"I just wanted to say thanks for all the incredible work you and the Music staff put into Showcase last Friday night, the standard seems to be getting higher every year! I enjoyed the arrangement of 'Trepak' by Tchaikovsky and am glad that my daughter was able to be part of it. I really enjoyed the whole night; the kids were great!!"
Penny (Parent of a Year 6)



Hire drum-pad from school

Drum-Pad hire from school

- A hire agreement form will be provided with the drum-pad during the first lesson
- It is to be used only by the student
- Hire of a Drum-Pad extends across term holidays and is to be returned at the student's final lesson for the year

Purchase of an instrument

- The names and details of recommended drum instrument stores can be obtained from the teacher
- Students at all year levels learn to read drum notation together with improvising studies
- When a music tutor book is required, the Teacher will advise the name and price of the book and music shops where it is available.
- A student will be given the necessary foundation towards developing the skills and requirements needed to complete VCE Drum Performance Units 3 and 4 in the future

What you need for the first lesson

Music Book & Drum Sticks

- An A4 display book with plastic inserts for holding solo pieces of music.
- Sticks can be purchased from a good music store for around \$12 a pair

Music Stand

- A music stand for practice at home is essential for each student.
- Compact fold-up metal stands, available at most music shops, cost \$30-40.

Music Record Book

- Each student is required to use the Music Record Book supplied by the School at the first lesson, with a \$10 charge per book on your School statement.
- Sometimes called a "Little Green Book" or "Music Diary"
- This is the main communication tool between teachers, parents and the student.
 - Teachers write weekly goals to be achieved, progressive lesson count and urgent messages.
 - Students should place it on the **music stand** and read before each practice session, and complete the practice register on each page.
 - Parents are encouraged to sign the practice chart before each lesson.
 - It should be kept with the student's music books and be brought to each lesson.
- Replacement books can be requested from the Instrumental Teacher and will be charged on your School statement.
- When a student fails to bring their Music Record Book to 4 consecutive lessons, a new book will automatically be provided and charged on the School statement.

Practice

- A beginning student should practise 10 to 15 min every day using a Drum-Pad.
- An advanced student should practise 30 to 60 minutes a day using a Drum-Kit.
- If a regular practice schedule cannot be maintained it is important to be patient as a student needs to grow to develop the necessary strength required in drumming
- A student should aim to practise 5 days a week.
- Practice should be in a room with:
 - limited distractions,
 - a door that can be closed.

Instrumental Music Guidelines

Payment Structure and Schedule

These two pages have been combined into a separate document called "Guidelines and Payment Structure (current year)". It can be found on the school website <http://www.essexheightsps.vic.edu.au/page/76/Instrumental-Music-Program>



Enrolment for Drum-Kit/Percussion Lessons

Student	<input type="text"/>
Class	<input type="text"/>

1 Select your Instrument

☒ Drum-Kit

2 Have you had lessons before?

☐ No, go to question 4
☐ Yes, go to question 3

3 How long have you been learning?

Years/terms

4 Select the Type of Lesson

☐ Individual (1 student, 30 minutes)
☐ Shared (2 students, 30 minutes)

☒ Enrolment in Percussion Ensemble

5 Special requests:

Parent/Guardian Authorization

- 1 I agree with the current Guidelines and Payment Schedule and conditions set out in the Drum-Kit/Percussion Handbook.
- 2 I have discussed the conditions with my child and the responsibilities are understood.
- 3 The enrolment is ongoing until the School receives a withdrawal in writing or my child leaves the school.
- 4 I agree to my contact details being available to the Instrumental Teacher.

Name	<input type="text"/>	
Phone	Home: <input type="text"/>	Work: <input type="text"/>
Mobile	<input type="text"/>	
Email	<input type="text"/>	

Signature	/ /20
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Office Use:	Date received	MM
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