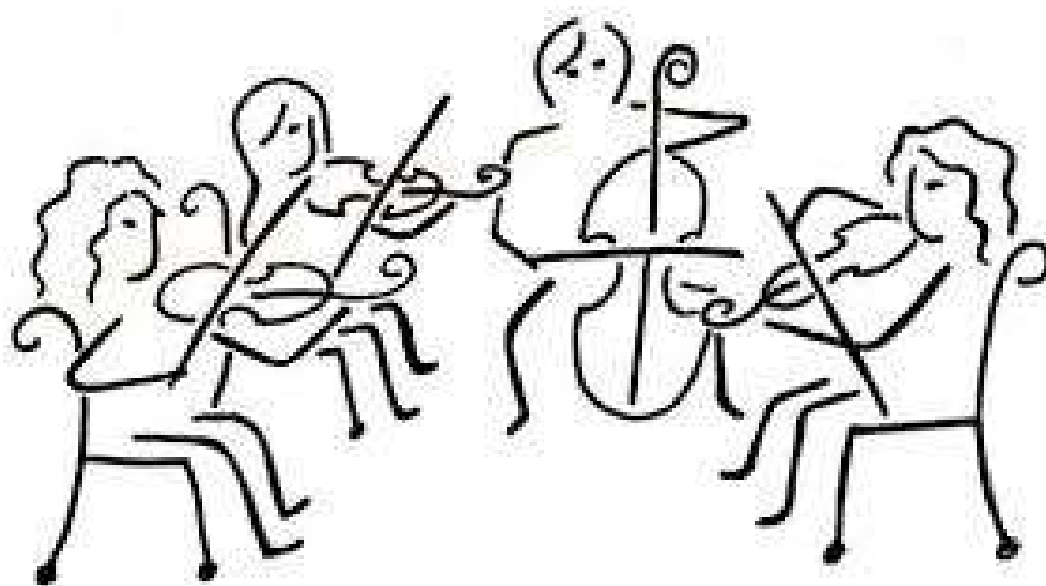


St. Andrew's Catholic School Ferry Grove



String Program 2019

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♫ ♪ STRING PROGRAM ♪ ♫

St Andrew's Catholic School, Ferny Grove

Aims

The music education of children in Queensland schools is to be guided by a belief in the following principles:

1. The right of each individual to develop his/her potential
2. To develop an understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of music.
3. To develop a further knowledge of music and develop an appreciation of the discipline required in performance.
4. The use of camps and or workshops to further enhance the development of knowledge and appreciation.
5. To use music to develop the individual – socially, emotionally and physically.

It is hoped that students of St Andrew's Catholic School will participate in a comprehensive, educational and enjoyable String Program.

How are students selected?

Students are selected for the program according to the following criteria:

- a) the student's keenness to learn;
- b) instrument compatibility assessment;
- c) the student's and parents' commitment to organising daily practice and regular attendance at lessons and rehearsals.

Instrument Selection

- a) Although the child's preference will be taken into account, instruments need to be distributed evenly, so that the group has a balanced sound. String tuition is offered on the violin, viola, cello, double bass and guitar.
- b) The number of instruments available is very limited and the teacher will make an informed decision as to what instrument he/she thinks that the student will have greater success on.
- c) If you decline the instrument chosen for your child it may not be possible to ask for a different instrument and will be at the discretion of the teacher whether another instrument can or will be offered. The teacher will offer the declined instrument to another child on the waiting list.

Commitment to the Program

All students wishing to enter the program are required to commit for a minimum period of one year. Please consider this carefully before allowing your child to enroll. This requirement is necessary as the progress and development of other students in the program is disrupted by fluctuations in student numbers. Furthermore, learning a musical instrument can be frustrating, especially in the initial months of tuition, and students often need to persevere beyond these difficulties to fully enjoy the instrument and their participation in the program.

Only in extreme circumstances will a termination of contract be considered. Please be advised that termination also involves a fee which is payable should you withdraw.

Students are required to practice daily and attendance at lessons and rehearsals is of paramount importance. If your child cannot attend a lesson or rehearsal, it is expected that the student or their parent/guardian inform the teacher before the lesson/rehearsal via email to amilliken@bne.catholic.edu.au.

In the case of lessons, this may allow for an alternative time to be arranged so that the student does not miss a week of tuition.

Students attend a 30-minute group lesson throughout the day, plus one morning or afternoon ensemble rehearsal (45 minutes) per week.

Termination of Lessons

The String teacher, in conjunction with the principal and the music teacher, may exclude children from tuition if:

They do not progress through lack of practice, attendance or aptitude. They do not attend ensemble rehearsals and performances. They do not take care of the instrument on loan by the school (if applicable). Fees are not kept up to date.

Students in their 2nd, 3rd or 4th year of Strings must give **6 weeks written notice to the principal**. Failure to do so will incur the charge of the current term's fee.

Behaviour

String lessons are an extension of class learning and students are expected to behave as they do in class. Impoliteness and misbehavior will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

Lessons and Rehearsals – What is Expected

Lessons commence Week 1 – Term 1

1. Lessons are held once a week (30 min duration) at the music block during the school day. Students are required to be punctual and organised, ensuring they always bring their instrument, music books and other necessary items to every lesson.
2. Rehearsals are held before and after school. Students are expected to be on time and attend all rehearsals.
3. Concerts, camps, workshops, eisteddfods and tours which are held throughout the year. Students are expected to participate in these events as well as any extra rehearsals. It is an expectation that all school functions where the ensembles perform, that your child will be available unless unforeseen circumstances arise.

It is a requirement that all students wear the formal school uniform to performances. The uniform can be purchased from St Andrew's.

String Teacher

The string teacher at St Andrew's Catholic School for 2019 is Annette Milliken. Ms Milliken will be teaching on Thursday and Friday. Lessons are conducted at the school.

Ensemble Times

Junior Strings: Thursday 7:30 - 8:15am

Senior Strings: Thursday 3:00 – 3:45pm

Junior Guitar: Friday 7:30 - 8:15am

Senior Guitar: Friday 3:00 – 3:45pm

Group lessons may not be on the same day as their ensemble practice however the students may leave their instruments in the string room for the next day if required.

Practice

- a) Students should maintain a regular schedule of home practice all year. A little bit of careful practice each day is better than none at all.
- b) Your child's progress will depend a great deal on what is achieved during daily practice sessions at home. Learning takes place in school, but proficiency is gained at home. You can use the following guidelines to help your child at home.

Time Schedule

Start with 5-10 minutes and increase steadily to a half hour, as the student's ability increases. Establish with your child, a weekly practice schedule.

This time can be split into two or three shorter sessions. Practicing at the same time every day is good, but some flexibility should be built into this schedule. Students will not normally practice of their own accord. They will need to be encouraged to practice each day.

Practice Goals

While a sufficient amount of time per day is important, it is also important to have definite goals in mind for each session. These goals might include the improvement of tone on one note, or the ability to play a lengthy tune or exercise without a mistake.

Encouraging your child

Spend some time listening to your child practice. Offer constructive criticisms, but choose your words carefully. "That sounds better today", is preferable to "aren't you ever going to learn that?" Try the instrument yourself. Let the student teach you what he/she has learned.

Instrument Hire/Buy Scheme Information

The school has a history with Morris Brothers Musical Store, cnr Webster Road & Billabong Street, Stafford.

When first entering the music program at St Andrew's, you will be required to purchase or hire an instrument, as well as purchasing some music books and other accessories.

Equipment Requirements

When your child starts in the String Program, he/she will need an instrument, some music books and some other accessories. The music books and accessories can be purchased through Morris Brothers, as can the instrument, plus you have the option to rent or buy the instrument.

If you are receiving this booklet in November, then you need to make sure the instrument and packs are ordered before Term 1 of the following year.

Please see Morris Brothers for instrument hire/buy prices. You may also like to visit Simply for Strings in Red Hill to purchase a good quality instrument.

Fees and payment

Payment of a full term's lessons of **\$200 per term**, is to be made by the end of the third week of each new school term. Students will receive a minimum of 8 lessons and a maximum of 10.

To exit the program, you must provide 6 weeks written notice to the Principal prior to the new term. Upon receiving permission to exit the program from the Principal, you must then give

notice in writing to **BOTH** Annette Milliken amilliken@bne.catholic.edu.au and the school office at pfernygrove@bne.catholic.edu.au so that the following term's fees will not be charged.

Absences from lesson

If your child cannot attend a lesson or rehearsal, it is expected that the parent/guardian must contact Ms Milliken before 7:00am on the day of their lesson/rehearsal via an email to amilliken@bne.catholic.edu.au. If the school is not advised of the absence, then an SMS text message will be sent out to the parents advising them that their child has been marked absent and asking them to contact the school to advise the reason why.

Beginner Workshop

The beginner workshop for First Year instrumental students is one half day of specialised tuition for your child's instrument.

Ms Milliken teaches students the basics of their instrument, and students learn around six weeks' worth of lessons in half a day, and is a great kick-starter to your child's music education.

For 2019 this workshop day will be held at the school on Sunday 3rd February 2019.

Violin, Viola, Cello and Double Bass: 9:00am – 11:00am

Guitar: 12:00pm – 2:00pm

One parent must be in attendance for the duration of the workshop.

Communication

Communication is essential in any music program.

We request that you supply a current email address to become part of a Strings Email Tree, in which you will receive regular updates about the program.

Parents are also expected to regularly check the 'Instrumental Music' section of the school website for concert dates and ongoing communications via the school newsletter.

In conclusion

Acceptance into the St Andrew's String Program is a privilege which will provide your child with a wonderful opportunity to learn an instrument and experience the fun and excitement of playing music with their peers.

Regular practice and commitment to lessons and rehearsals will ensure that your child benefits greatly from this program.

We look forward to a productive and exciting new year! For further inquiries, please contact us through the school and we will be happy to assist.

Yours sincerely,

Annette Milliken

Instrumental String Teacher

A.Mus.A., A.T.C.L., Perf.Cert., B.Mus.

amilliken@bne.catholic.edu.au

Why join a String Program?

The benefits conveyed by Instrumental Music education can be grouped in four categories:

- * Success in society
- * Success in school
- * Success in developing intelligence
- * Success in life

Benefit one: Success in society

Perhaps the basic reason that every child must have an education in music is that music is a part of the fabric of our society. The intrinsic value of music for each individual is widely recognised in the many cultures that make up Australian life; indeed, every human culture uses music to carry forward its ideas and ideals. The importance of music to our economy is without doubt.

The value of music in shaping individual abilities and character are attested in a number of places:

- * *Secondary students who participated in band or orchestra reported the lowest lifetime use of all substances (alcohol, tobacco, illicit drugs).* Victorian Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse Report. Reported in Melbourne Chronicle, January 1998
- * *"Music is a magical gift we must nourish and cultivate in our children, especially now as scientific evidence proves that an education in the arts makes better math and science students, enhances spatial intelligence in newborns and let's not forget that the arts are a compelling solution to teen violence, certainly not the cause of it!"*
Michael Greene, Recording Academy President and CEO at the 42nd Annual Grammy Awards, February 2000

Benefit two: Success in school

Success in society, of course, is predicated on success in school. Any music teacher or parent of a music student can call to mind anecdotes about effectiveness of music study in helping children become better students. Skills learned through the discipline of music, these stories commonly point out, transfer to study skills, communication skills and cognitive skills useful in every part of the curriculum.

Particularly through participation in ensembles; helps students learn to work effectively in the school environment without resorting to violent or inappropriate behaviour.

There are a number of hard facts that we can report about the ways that music study is correlated with success in school:

- * *"The term 'core academic subjects' means English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography."*

- * *A study of 237 second grade children used piano keyboard training and newly designed math's software to demonstrate improvement in math skills. The group scored 27% higher on proportional math and fractions tests than children that used only the math software.* Graziano, Amy, Matthew Peterson, and Gordon Shaw, "Enhanced learning of proportional math through music training and spatial-temporal training." *Neurological Research* 21 (March 1999)

Benefit three: Success in developing intelligence

Success in school and in society depends on an array of abilities. Without joining the intense ongoing debate about the nature of intelligence as a basic ability, we can demonstrate that some measures of a child's intelligence are indeed increased with music instruction. Once again, this burgeoning range of data supports a long-established base of anecdotal knowledge to the effect that music education makes kids smarter.

What is new and especially compelling however, is a combination of tightly-controlled behavioural studies and groundbreaking neurological research that show how music study can actively contribute to brain development.

Benefit four: Success in life

Each of us wants our children and the children of all those around us to achieve success in school, success in employment and success in the social structures through which we move, but we also want our children to experience "success" on a broader scale.

Participation in music, is not only based on a grounding in music education during the formative school years, but brings countless benefits to each individual throughout life. The benefits may be psychological or spiritual and they may be physical as well.

