Robertson Public School

Parents and Citizens Association

Committed to helping our children and teaching staff

Robertson Public School Band Program

***“****Children's involvement in musical activity has a profound effect on the development of the child's general learning. It is now proven beyond doubt that children who are engaged in arts activities, especially music, have advantages in all areas of learning.****”***

***Richard Gill, Musical Educator and Maestro, 9 Feb 2011***

**Welcome**

Welcome to the Robertson Public School Band Program.

Students in Years K to 6 are invited to join this very successful extra-curricular program at Robertson Public School.

The program has been operating since 1995 and has established a tradition of excellence, achievement and enormous fun for the participating students, as well as having earned a notable reputation throughout our wider community.

This handbook is designed to provide information about our musical instrument hire program as well as to answer some of your queries.

**Special Note to Parents**

For your child to gain the most from our musical and band program, please remember:

* You are as much a part of the Band and music tuition program as your child;
* To encourage your child with their practice and the challenges they will face when they are learning to play an instrument;
* To ensure your child attends music lessons each week unless unwell;
* To help your child attend band rehearsals each week once they join our band;

**Objectives:**

The Music and Band Program aims to:

* Provide an opportunity for any Robertson student to learn to play a musical instrument for their own and other's enjoyment;
* Build confidence and self-esteem through public performance;
* Learn to play solo and in groups to develop an appreciation for music;
* Perform in our Band to encourage team spirit and represent the school;
* Achieve competent or higher levels of musicianship for all participating students; and
* Do so, on an equitable basis without imposing excessive cost on families.

**Obligations:**

We cannot achieve these objectives without certain obligations on students, parents and the school:

* Students are expected to practise regularly and to commit to the band program for the full year.
* Students are required to undertake music lessons in addition to attending band practices;
* Parents must notify our Band Coordinator, Mrs Haworth or Music Tutor, Mrs Horton if their child is unable to make a practice or lesson;
* Parents commit to support their child's participation by way of instrument hire or purchase and payment of music tuition costs.
* The school facilitates the music and band program by:
* The provision of the rehearsal and tuition space required and
* Allowing the music program to co-exist collaboratively with other school activities.

**Band Administration**

**Music Committee**

The Music and Band Program at Robertson Public School is run by our School Band Coordinator, school Music Tutors and School Principal in conjunction with the supportive P&C Association.

**Band Program Director and Conductors**

Our school sources private, qualified music tutors in various instruments who visit our school throughout the week to tutor interested students during school time.

Providing overall musical direction and coordination for the Band program, is Assistant Principal Mrs Amber Haworth and Music Co-ordinator Mrs Kirrily Horton, who does this as a highly regarded volunteer.

**Parent Involvement**

Our Music and Band Program is very successful as allparents support their child/children by ensuring they attend Band practices and regularly practice playing their instrument at home. From time to time we ask for parent assistance to help us transport students and instruments if we are performing around our local district.

**Absences**

It is the parent’s responsibility to please advise our school or our Band Coordinator of any planned or unplanned absences from Band practices or performances. Parents are also asked to notify our school if your child is unable to attend a music lesson.

**Commitment**

Once a commitment has been made to the Band, it is important that each student endeavours to remain in the Band for the full year. It takes 8-10 months to start getting a grasp on a musical instrument. Once a student joins our Band, it takes a few months for them to play their instrument as fast or as competently as other Band members, so persistence and enthusiasm are required.

If your child is unhappy in Band, please discuss the issues with Mrs Haworth or Mrs Horton sooner rather than later. As a courtesy to our Band Coordinator and the other Band members, it is expected that a student and their parents will meet with Mrs Haworth or Ms Matthews to discuss leaving, rather than simply quit.

**Band Practice**

Our School Band practices each Monday afternoon from 3:15 – 4pm in our school Music Room.

**Expectations**

Students are expected to:

* Attend all Band practices and special events/performances;
* Be respectful of the authority of our Band Coordinator Mrs Haworth and all Music Tutors;
* Be respectful of all students in the band;
* Not talk out of turn;
* Avoid playing their instrument inappropriately;
* Be respectful of their equipment and instrument and those of others;
* Practice playing their musical instrument regularly throughout the week;

**Appendix A:**

**2012 Robertson Public School Band Program Application Form**

**Student’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Parent/Carer1** | **Parent/Carer2** |
| **Name** |  |  |
| **Email Address** |  |  |
| **Mobile phone** |  |  |
| **Home phone** |  |  |

Please note all communication about the Band Program, including invoices, **is via email**.

Has the applicant had previous musical experience? Yes / No

If so, please give details:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Does your child already own an instrument? Yes / No

Please give details:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The instruments available for tuition and then to play in our Band once a student is capable, are as follows:

Percussion (drums etc), keyboard, guitar, trombone, French horn, trumpet, saxophone, euphonium, tuba, bass clarinet, clarinet, flute, violin, cello

Please list your child’s first three (3) preferences below.

*Your child will almost always get their first choice, but it is always advisable to keep an open mind to avoid disappointment*.

**1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

We understand and acknowledge that in order to have a musically balanced band our child’s preferred instrument may not be granted.

*Student’s signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Parent/Guardian’s signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**Appendix B:**

**Robertson Public School Band Program Student Commitment**

Student to sign and return to School or Band along with application form

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(student’s name) agree

to the following conditions.

* To practise my instrument regularly, ideally 20 minutes per day, 4 days a week.
* To attend my weekly music lessons as scheduled.
* To attend weekly Band practices, when I join the Band, and remember to bring my instrument to school on this day
* To look after my instrument and keep it clean
* To keep my instrument in its protective case when I am not practising
* To commit to the Band Program for one school year.

I have read the above and agree to these conditions,

Student’s name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_