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The Band Program

Narrabeen Lakes Public School offers students the opportunity to participate in a high quality and engaging band program. The three band program caters for all abilities from complete beginners to experienced musicians.

Playing a musical instrument has many benefits. Playing in a band adds a further dimension to a student’s musical education, promoting team and social skills, fostering a sense of responsibility and pride and exposing students to the art of performance.

The Bands

The band program includes three bands that perform at different levels to meet the varied musical abilities of our students. All three bands are what are generally called concert bands made up of woodwind, brass, percussion, keyboards and bass guitar.

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 open for all students in Year 3 and above. Students normally spend a year in the Training Band before moving up to the Concert Band.

The Concert Band

The Concert Band is for students that have moved beyond beginner level, but do not yet have enough musical proficiency to enter into the Performance Band. Members of this band are expected to be able to play more difficult musical pieces and have sound music reading skills.

The Performance Band

This is our premier band. It is made up of our most experienced and competent players. Students in this band are expected to be able to play reasonably challenging musical pieces, as well as acting as role models for the students in the other bands.

Our Band Director

Sasha Stocken is a passionate music educator, eager to inspire students to experience music in a fun and rewarding environment. She regularly shows that music can become a life passion showcasing her commitment to ensembles such as the Northern Beaches Orchestra and the Northern Beaches Symphonic Wind Ensemble who regularly perform alongside schools throughout the year. Sasha is in her final year at *The Sydney Conservatorium of Music* studying Flute and a Bachelor of Music Education providing her with the most up to date resources, pedagogies and technologies in the current music education scene. Sasha is eager to assist you and your child in reaping the benefits that learning a musical instrument has across all aspects of an individual’s life.

Commitment to the Band Program

Before enrolling in the band program, please note there are a number of commitments in both costs and time required of band members and / or their parents. These are detailed in this information booklet, which should be read carefully.

Key commitments:

* all band fees and instrument hire fees must be paid by the due date;
* band members must provide their own instrument or hire an instrument from the school;
* band members must attend private music lessons of half an hour weekly;
* band members must practice regularly;
* band members must attend all rehearsals;
* band members must attend all band performances and the annual band workshop; and
* band members must commit to membership of the band program for the whole calendar year.

Students should only join the band if these commitments can be met.

Band Performances

Performances are a key part of the band program. The bands perform at various school and community events and participate in festivals and competitions throughout the year. Some events may be held on evenings and at weekends. Band members are expected to attend all performances.

Band Workshop

There is a half day workshop for all band members, held mid-year on a Sunday at the school. The workshop is a concentrated set of tutorials and rehearsals designed to improve the bands’ performance in preparation for upcoming performances. All band members are encouraged to attend. The costs of the workshop are included in the annual band fees.

Band Uniforms

Band uniform consists of a black band polo shirt with NLPS band logo, black pants, black socks and shoes.

Each band member will be provided with a polo shirt to keep for the year. If a new size is needed, it can be exchanged**.** A $25 replacement fee will be charged for lost shirts.

Band members must provide their own pants, socks and shoes.

Uniform is compulsory for all band performances.

Rehearsals

The Training Band and Concert Band rehearse at the school once a week during term. The Performance Band rehearses twice per week.

Rehearsal times are:

Training Band Wednesday 8:00am – 9:00am

Concert Band Thursday 8:00am – 9:00am

Performance Band Tuesday 8:00am – 9:00am and Thursday 3:15pm – 4:15pm.

All band members are expected to arrive promptly.

Attendance by all students at all rehearsals is compulsory, as it is essential for the progress of each band. The Parent Co-ordinator for each band will take a register at every rehearsal. If your child is unable due to sickness or special circumstances, please contact the Parent Co-ordinator in advance.

There are no rehearsals on pupil free days or public holidays.

Behaviour

The high standards of behaviour expected of students throughout their time at Narrabeen Lakes Public School apply equally to students when attending band rehearsals and performances. Students must be respectful and courteous to the Band Director and parent volunteers, listen and follow directions, help set up and clear up at rehearsals and take care of and responsibility for their instruments and music. The school’s discipline policy also applies.

Private Tuition

All band students are required to obtain private music tuition. Tuition is essential to progress with learning an instrument and to keep up with the band program. The Northern Beaches area is fortunate to have a good selection of private tutors across a wide range of instruments. Tutors range in price from $25-$40 per half hour session, depending on the instrument and experience of the tutor. Some tutors are self-employed and work from their own homes, whilst others are part of a teaching business like Mona Vale or Mall Music (Teaching Services Australia). Some tutors hold lessons on the school premises.

Please note that arranging for and payment of private tutors is the parent’s responsibility. However, a tutor list will be made available to new band members. Contact with tutors should begin once your child has been allocated an instrument and you have enrolled in band so that the first private lesson can occur in W1, Term 1.

Music Examinations

Band members are encouraged to further their musical skills by sitting formal music examinations. Music examinations may be taken into account in assessing whether a student may join the Performance Band.

Organisations such as AMEB and Trinity run music examination programs for a wide variety of instruments and musical abilities. Most private tutors will be able to organise and prepare your child for the appropriate examination level. As with general tuition, it is the responsibility of the parents to arrange and meet the costs of music examinations.

Band Fees

The band program is an optional, extra-curricular activity that is not funded by the school. Band fees cover the professional fees of our Band Director, the annual band workshop, costs of external performances and competitions, music, folders, polo shirts and administrative costs. The instrument hire fee covers the costs of equipment maintenance and purchases. Band fees now include GST. The Band Committee is committed to ensuring that the band program is financially accessible to as many students as possible. Although the costs may seem high, NLPS has one of the most affordable band programs in the area.

Instrument Hire Fee

For those students that wish to hire an instrument from NLPS, the annual instrument hire fee is $150 (inclusive of GST), payable by the end of Week 2, Term 1.

Annual fees – Training and Concert Bands

The annual fee for those in the training and concert bands is $320 (inclusive of GST).

This must be paid in the following instalments:

* $160 (plus $150 instrument hire fee, if applicable) by the end of Week 2, Term 1;
* $160 by the end of Week 2, Term 3.

Annual fees – Performance Band

The annual fee for those in the performance band is $380 (inclusive of GST).

This must be paid in the following instalments:

* $190 (plus $150 instrument hire fee, if applicable) by the end of Week 2, Term 1;
* $190 by the end of Week 2, Term 3.

Band fees are strictly non-refundable.

Payment Options

Payment plans may be offered in special circumstances. Please contact the Band Treasurer in advance of the due dates to discuss this option.

Otherwise, fees must be paid by the due dates detailed above. **Prompt payment of fees (or compliance with any agreed payment plan) is a condition of membership of the band.**

Payments by EFT are preferred, but may also be made by credit card or cash, as follows:

EFT Account Name: Narrabeen Lakes P&C Association\*

BSB: 062 144

Account number: 0090 0031

Please reference as “BAND” and the student’s full name.

*(\*Please note P&C account details differ from those of school account.)*

Cash

Cash must be deposited in the BLACK BOX in the office in a sealed envelope marked with “BAND” and the student’s full name.

Credit card

Payment can also be made by credit card by completing the “Non-Cash Payment Options” form and returning it to the BLACK BOX in the office.

Any queries in relation to fees should be directed to the Band Treasurer.

Instrument Hire

Most instruments are available for hire including flutes, clarinets, saxophones (alto and tenor), trumpets, trombones, French horns and baritones. Drum kits, bass guitars and amps are not available for hire.

Instruments must be checked at the end of Term 4 for any servicing required. Instruments will be re-issued to returning band members at the end of Term 4 (if no servicing is required) or early in Term 1. The costs of normal wear and tear and annual maintenance are covered by the instrument hire fee. However, parents must meet the costs of any damage caused by carelessness and the replacement costs of any lost instruments. If you have any problems with your instrument, please contact the Instrument Co-ordinator. Parents should not attempt to fix any instrument themselves.

Buying an Instrument

If parents wish to purchase an instrument, the table below shows indicative price ranges for new entry level (often 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 |

Joining the Band

Any student in Years 3 - 6 can join the band.

Normally students join the band through our annual intake process in Term 4 each year. The process starts with a recruitment concert for students then in Years 2-5. This is a way for us to show students what the band program is about and to showcase some of the instruments.

After the Term 4 recruitment concert, the parents of interested students should complete a (non-binding) expression of interest form, which provides information in relation to the student’s personality, physical attributes, instrument preferences (if any) and any other issues that should be considered in assessing the suitability of particular instruments to the student.

Those students will then be invited to an instrument assessment, where they can test different instruments and our Band Director can assess students’ suitability for particular instruments.

After the instrument assessment, each student will receive a note from the Band Director detailing her recommendation as to the instrument that may be best suited to that student. Any queries in relation to that recommendation or any other element of the band program should be directed to a member of the Band Committee.

If both parents and student are keen to join and willing to make the required commitments to the band program, then parents should enroll the student and book any instrument hire required online at [www.myschoolmusic.com.au/narrablksband](http://www.myschoolmusic.com.au/narrablksband) by Week 9, Term 4.

The arrangements for collection of hire instruments, band folders and band shirts and for the first rehearsals of Term 1 will be advised.

Continuing in the Band

All current band members wishing to continue in the band program in the following year will be required to re-enroll and book any instrument hire online at

[www.myschoolmusic.com.au/narrablksband](http://www.myschoolmusic.com.au/narrablksband) by Week 9, Term 4.

All instruments hired from the school must be returned for checking in the last week of Term 4. Instruments will be re-issued to returning band members at the end of Term 4 (if no servicing is required) or early in Term 1.

Leaving the Band

It is noted that all Year 6 students will be leaving the band at the end of that year. Any other students who do not re-enroll will be assumed to be leaving the band at the end of that year.

Students who wish to leave the band program mid-year should contact the Band Co-ordinator. Band fees will not be refunded.

Please ensure that any outstanding fees are paid. If unsure, please contact the Band Treasurer for details.

All instruments hired from the school must be returned at the end of Term 4 or by arrangement with the Instrument Co-ordinator.

The Band Committee

The band program is run by the Band Committee, which is a sub-committee of the P&C Association. Most of the administrative work is done by parent volunteers. The Band Director, the Principal and several teachers are also members of the Band Committee.

Volunteering

The Band Committee would welcome additional members to help run the program. Please contact the Band Committee if you can assist.

All other parents are expected to assist with the band program, as and when they are able, whether that is assisting with setting up and packing up at performances or helping at fundraising events.

Communication

The Band Committee communicates with band parents via email, notes and the school newsletter.

Contact details of current Band Committee members are available on the school website at [www.narrablks-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.narrablks-p.schools.nsw.edu.au) or from the school office. Please refer any queries to the appropriate Band Committee member:

Band Co-ordinator All general enquiries

Band Treasurer Fees

Instrument Co-ordinator Instrument hire, maintenance, returns

Parent Co-ordinators Report absences from rehearsals or performances

Any musical issues can be discussed with the Band Director by prior appointment.