



MONTMORENCY
SECONDARY COLLEGE

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC HANDBOOK

2022

PRIDE IN ACHIEVEMENT

Benefits of Learning an Instrument

Helps create friendships



Increases memory skills



Can improve academic results



Creates responsibility



Develops time management



Develops concentration



Teaches perseverance



Creates a sense of achievement



Can help relieve stress



Nurtures self-expression



Improves listening skills



Welcome to the Instrumental Music Program at Montmorency Secondary College



Montmorency Secondary College has a proud history of providing quality music education. The aim of the MSC Instrumental Music Program is to develop a students' musical, social and personal awareness through participation in music instruction, ensembles, rehearsals, and performances. Our program provides a rich developmental musical experience for all students in Years 7 to 12. The program is for students who have never played a musical instrument, through to the accomplished musician. It provides a wide selection of specialist music tuition in woodwind, brass, strings, percussion, and bass guitar. Students also have the choice to study piano, guitar (acoustic or electric) and voice with independent private music teachers.

Students who are learning an instrument are encouraged to participate in the various MSC ensembles to experience the joy of music making and to stimulate their interest in music. Instrumental Music lessons are scheduled on a rotating basis throughout the school day in order to minimise disruption to a student's timetable. The lessons are provided in either small groups, or as individual lessons, depending on the student's level of skill and student groupings.

Learning an instrument at Montmorency Secondary College:

- Involves positive participation;
- Integrates listening, performing and music literacy;
- Promotes both individual and social aspects of music-making;
- Develops creative thinking and personal responsibility; and
- In fun and challenging.



Lessons

The lessons are scheduled on a rotating basis throughout the school day. The lessons are provided in either small groups, or as individual lessons, depending on the student's level of skill and student groupings. Timetabling the lessons on a rotating basis minimises the disruption to the student's school day.

The College provides tuition in:

Woodwind: Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone
Brass: Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, French Horn
Strings: Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass
Other: Bass Guitar, Percussion and Drum Kit

Private teacher lessons are also offered at the College for:

- Piano
- Guitar (acoustic / electric)
- Voice

School Ensembles & Performances

Students receiving lessons through the Instrumental Music Program will also be required to participate in an ensemble appropriate to their ability and instrument as soon as they are able. Playing in an ensemble is the means through which the social and interactive nature of playing is developed; it is an essential aspect of being a musician. A firm student commitment is required for these ensembles, with students expected to attend all rehearsals and performances until the end of Term 4.

The choice of ensembles at Montmorency Secondary College is wide, and includes:

- Vocal Group
- Guitar Ensembles
- Percussion Ensembles
- Jazz/Stage Band
- String Ensembles
- Production Band
- Concert Bands
- Woodwind Choir



Performance opportunities include:

College Whole School Assemblies, end-of-semester concerts, Primary School tours, school events; community events, the annual Arts Alive concert and the yearly Production band, which includes performing for our College musicals (which have included *Shrek the Musical* 2018, *Little Shop of Horrors* 2019 and *Matilda* 2021).

Remember, being a member of a Band is like participating in the ultimate team sport! To create music successfully as a group, every single player has an important role to play.



Practice Makes Perfect

“You don’t have to practice on the days you don’t eat.” - Shinichi Suzuki

Never have truer words been spoken. These words illustrate the importance of practice. To be successful at one’s chosen instrument, regular practice is essential.

Parental support is important to ensure students are encouraged to adhere to a routine. 15-to-30-minute practice sessions, 3 to 5 times a week, is recommended for beginners. This time frame gradually extends as the student’s expertise and repertoire increases.

Music Fees

The following fees apply for lessons provided by Department of Education teachers:

Lesson Fee:	\$200	Annual fee (small group lessons)
Instrument Hire:	\$185	Annual fee
Beginner Book:	\$20	(applicable only to beginner students)
Percussion Pack:	\$100	(applicable only to drum students and includes sticks, a practice pad and music books)

The following fees apply lessons provided by private external teachers:

- Piano lessons
- Guitar (acoustic or electric) lessons
- Voice lessons

These lessons are undertaken by private teachers, who in 2022 have agreed to charge \$35 per 30-minute individual lesson, invoiced to families directly by the teacher, on a quarterly basis.

Parents are able to request group lessons, and this will be accommodated where possible.

Instrument Hire or Purchase

A limited number of instruments are available for hire from the Music Department, at a cost of \$185 per annum. After the first year of learning, families are encouraged to purchase an instrument for their child, if possible, to foster ownership and connection. Students are expected to take care of hired instruments and return them in the same condition they received them. The instrument cannot be used by other family members or friends, who may not know how to look after the instrument appropriately.

After the first year of lessons, the College recommends families purchase an instrument for their child. When parents begin looking to buy an instrument, we recommend they seek guidance from their child's music teacher prior to purchase. Whilst there are many inexpensive, new instruments available in stores and online (on sites such as eBay) we have found these instruments can be quite problematic for students. When buying a musical instrument, buying a reputable brand name makes a difference. Inexpensive brands lack the build quality, ergonomics, playability, tuning, tone, and serviceability of quality brands. A reputable brand second-hand instrument is usually a better option than a lower priced new instrument.

Students who are beginning percussion/drum kit lessons are not expected to own a drum kit within the first two years of lessons.

Let's get organised

Students will be required to bring their instrument to school on the days they have lessons or ensemble practice. The Music Department has allocated a storeroom, in which students can safely store their instruments. Please ensure your child's instrument is clearly labelled with their name, ensuring there is no confusion with the many instruments stored there.

Uniform

The College's Instrumental Music Performance uniform has been kept simple, to ensure there are no barriers to participation. Students are to wear:

- Long sleeved black button-up shirt;
- Long black pants, or skirt with black stockings underneath; and
- Black shoes with black socks.
- **Black leggings are NOT permitted**





How to Enrol in the Instrumental Music Program

Expression of Interest form: <https://forms.gle/dmNLJUazq23dsjUT6>

This form will be available after the 7 December, 2021.

New Students

The College holds an Information Evening in February each year for Year 7 students and their families. Parents and students will be able to learn more about the Instrumental Music program, see the instruments, and speak to our experienced Instrumental Music staff to help decide which instrument/s would suit the students.

Once this is decided, parents should complete an Expression of Interest form at the above link. The link is also available on the College website at: www.montysc.vic.edu.au – Beyond the Classroom

Alternatively, families can submit a hard copy of the form, which is available from the General Office.

Students with Prior Experience

Students who have already been learning an instrument prior to attending Montmorency Secondary College will be able to apply to continue lessons at their current skill level. These lessons can commence in the first full week of Term 1. Please complete the Expression of Interest form online (see link on page 6) and provide details of the music level your child has currently achieved.

Students who have lessons outside the College are also encouraged to participate in College ensembles. This will help strengthen the student's musical abilities and create a network of new friends. Enquiries can be directed to the Music Coordinator, Sharon Cooke, at sharon.cooke@education.vic.gov.au

Please include details of the student's name and year level, instrument they are currently studying, years of learning as well as current playing level. This will enable Sharon to provide advice about the ensemble opportunities available to your child.

It is important to remember:

- Signing up to the MSC Instrumental Music program is a year-long commitment.
- Cancellation of tuition may be possible in extraordinary circumstances, and requires a written request to the Music Coordinator, giving a minimum of four weeks' notice.

**MONTMORENCY
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