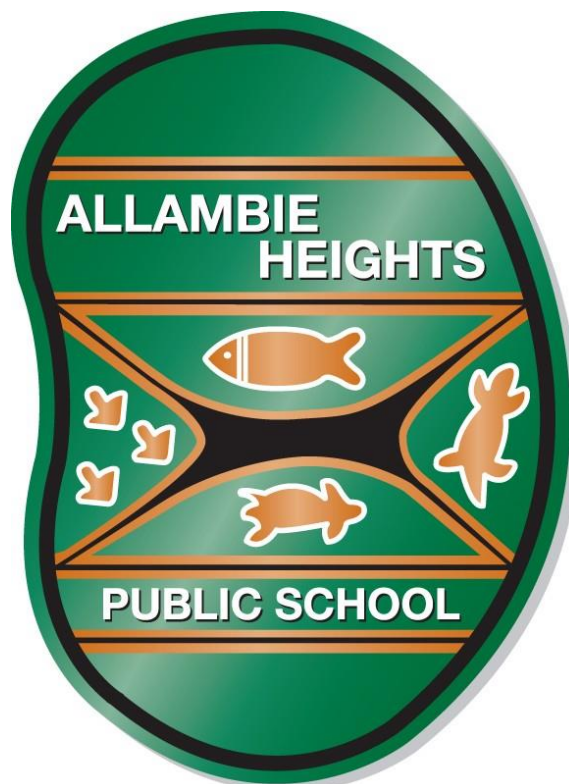


**ALLAMBIE HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL
BAND PROGRAM**

**BAND HANDBOOK
2024**

Please read carefully and keep for future reference



The Allambie Heights Public School Band Program

Welcome to the Allambie Heights Public School Band Program. We hope that you have a rewarding musical experience and lots of fun as a member of our school band. The purpose of this booklet is to provide you with some background information about the school band program. If, after reading this booklet, you have further questions, please feel free to contact a member of the 2024 Band Committee.

All enquiries can be directed to the band email address at ahpsband@gmail.com

Band Conductor	Surrey Hodges
Band Committee	Andrew Bowman
	Eliza Babajews
	Suzie Luchetti
	Rachel Walker
	Nadia Bowman
	Ben Sutton
	Darinka Karamarkovic

The Band Committee is a sub-committee of the Allambie Heights Public School P&C Association.

Aims and Outcomes

The aim of the Band Program is to provide musical enrichment through the playing of an instrument in one of the school bands. At the same time, the program aims to achieve a high-performance standard and to encourage the development of teamwork in a happy atmosphere.

By participating in the Band Program children will be able to achieve the following outcomes:

- a level of proficiency in playing a musical instrument
- confidence and self-esteem by performing in public
- competence in working in a group
- an enjoyment of music
- friendship with other musicians

Through providing the Band Program, outcomes for the school are:

- developing community spirit
- enhancing the school's reputation
- enriching the school's curriculum

Our Bands

In 2024 Allambie Heights will have four bands: Training Band, Concert Band, Performance Band and Jazz Band. Membership to each band is determined by musical experience and ability, not by seniority in school years. All bands are under the musical direction of Surrey Hodges, who is a qualified conductor and band director.

TRAINING BAND

Our Training Band was formed in 2001. Generally, all new members of the Band Program are placed in this band. This band is predominantly year 3 students. This band provides a great opportunity for the students to become competent on their new instruments in an environment which is both supportive and fun.

Also, existing band members who change instruments or members who are not yet competent on their instruments are in the Training Band.

CONCERT BAND and PERFORMANCE BAND

The Concert Band was formed in 1999. The Performance Band was a new addition to the school in 2014. After the first year in the Training Band, and at regular intervals thereafter, all players are assessed for possible promotion to these ensembles. Promotion is not automatic. It is at the discretion of the Band Director who considers the student's musical ability, commitment to the band and vacancies for specific instruments.

In our experience, students who have been promoted before they are ready tend to become frustrated because the music is beyond their capabilities and they lose interest.

JAZZ BAND

The Jazz Band was formed in 2019 and all Performance Band musicians who wish to join the Jazz Band and play an appropriate instrument (trumpet, trombone, saxophone, bass guitar, percussion and piano) will be accepted. Concert Band musicians that wish to join the Jazz Band will need to audition to ensure they are at an appropriate level.

Please Note: Jazz Band has an additional cost of \$350.00 per year.

Joining the Band Program

Membership is open to interested students who will be in year 3 to year 6 in 2024. Our band information evening was held on Thursday 16 November 2023.

This evening was an opportunity for you and your child to learn more about the Allambie Heights Public School's Band Program. Your child could see first-hand which instruments that are available to play.

After this event, parents or carers and interested students were asked to complete an instrument selection form and return it to the band email address.

An instrument hold test was conducted on Tuesday 21 November 2023. During this hold test, the Band Director individually assessed all applicants. Each student's preference was considered before places were offered in the Band Program.

Registering for the Band Program

To register your child for the Allambie Heights Public School Band Program please use the below portal link to My School Music: <https://portal.msmusic.com.au/ahpsband>. Once you enter the portal, click on the 'New Student Registration' button to register your child and the ensemble you should select is Training Band 2024.

If you already have a child in the Band Program, then you can register any additional children through your existing parent portal directly. You can do this by logging in as you would normally and on entering you will see the option to 'Add Student' at the top right-hand side of the portal located on the block with your existing child's name. If you click on this, it will allow you to register another child into the program without going through the 'New Registration' button.

We ask that you register no later than Friday 8 December 2023. This then allows us to conduct late instrument hold tests if required to ensure instrument balance in the 2024 Training Band.

Letters of offer were sent to all new applicants in November 2023. Please note that not all players were offered their preferred instrument. We tried to accommodate all preferences, however, since some instruments are more popular than others, and our aim is to achieve a balanced band sound, this is not always possible. When discussing instruments with your child, please consider the range of options available and talk to current players about these instruments. Also consider how your child will get to band for their rehearsal and bear in mind the size and weight of your chosen instrument and whether they can carry it! Bass instruments such as trombone and baritone are vital to the band, and a competent player of one of these instruments is a much sought after and welcome addition to any high school band.

Once the student's instrument selection is finalised, the student is expected to play this instrument for at least one year. If a student wishes to change instruments, they will usually need to start in the Training Band again with the new instrument for at least a term. The conductor, before promotion to the Concert Band, will then review them.

Instruments

Further details of each instrument are set out in the Appendix to this booklet.

WOODWIND AND BRASS

A limited number of instruments are available for hire from the school. Students who have been playing their instrument for at least a year are encouraged to purchase their own instrument as it allows the school instruments to be freed up for new players. As well as leading to a greater commitment to band, they then have their own instrument to take on to High School with them.

It is imperative that any instrument bought is of superior quality and is a well-known brand. We have had a lot of problems with cheap imitation clarinets and trumpets, which are made from softer metal, and therefore the keys break easily. Buy from a reputable source such as Mall Music. Be sure to consult your child's music teacher before making a purchase.

Buying a second-hand instrument is another option. Good brands include Yamaha, Jupiter, and Selmer for saxophones, Yamaha and Pearl for Flutes, Yamaha or Jupiter for clarinet. A Yamaha or Bach Trumpet are very good buys as well.

PERCUSSION

Students selected for percussion use the school's instruments but bring their own drumsticks. Drum players need to purchase a practice pad and a pair of drumsticks for home use. It is desirable that percussionists have a drum kit by Concert Band level.

KEYBOARD

We have found that students who have already learnt to play the piano or keyboard prior to joining the Band Program find the keyboard band music to be rather easy and often end up leaving after a short while. Such students generally enjoy taking up another instrument and make good progress because they can already read music. Therefore, there will be no keyboards in the bands.

BASS GUITAR

The Bass Guitar is an important instrument in our band. They play the low bass line along with the baritone. The school does not own any bass guitars.

To assist the children in size, it is recommended that you buy a $\frac{3}{4}$ size guitar, which is much easier for small hands. The child would need to bring the bass guitar to school for rehearsals, but they would be able to use the school amp.

NB: We have multiples of core instruments, which make up the school band. If your child has expressed an interest in playing an instrument, which does not feature in our band, and the Conductor feels it would fit in, please enquire as we do have the facilities to make this available.

Band Fees

The Band Program is self-funded as far as regular activities are concerned. The fees cover the cost of the Band Conductor as well as expenses incurred in buying and photocopying music, entering competitions, replacing music stands etc. Current band fees are \$150.00 per term/\$600.00 per year.

You are expected to pay band fees by the due dates. Non-payment may result in your child being excluded from the program or activities and their instrument (if it is a school instrument) being passed to another child.

There will be separate fees for Band Jam In Day, which will be approximately \$125.00 per child.

NB: Jazz Band costs are an additional \$350 per year on top of ordinary band membership fees of \$600 per year.

We are a registered provider for the Creative Kids program and can accept the NSW government's \$100.00 vouchers towards your young musician's fees in 2024. More information on how to apply for these will be sent out with the invoices.

Instrument Hire Fees

The cost of hiring a school instrument in 2024 will be \$60.00 per term/\$240.00 per year plus a refundable bond of \$100.00. Parents or carers of students hiring a school instrument are asked to sign an indemnity form at the start of the school year. Instruments are returned to the school for servicing in the last week of term 4 and are not returned to students until the new school year. If you require an instrument over the Christmas holiday period, you must hire it from another source.

Students are expected to look after school instruments very carefully. Any damages (other than those due to normal wear and tear) must be paid for by the student or deducted from their bond.

If the instrument you have hired from the school needs repair due to wear and tear or misuse, it is your responsibility to have it repaired and where possible a temporary replacement instrument will be issued.

Please talk to the Instrument co-ordinator if you experience difficulties with your instrument as we have an arrangement with the repair centres.

Repairs can be carried out by:

In Tune Music

Suite 101,
48 Atchison Street,
St Leonards NSW 2065
Tel: 9439 1143
Fax 9437 1104

www.intunemusic.com.au or email glennclark@intunemusic.com.au

Monday – Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 10.00am to 2.00pm

The instrument needs to be taken there by you. They will provide an invoice, which will include the cause of the damage. If the repair is needed due to misuse it will be your responsibility to pay for it.

Whilst we expect students to practise their instruments on a regular basis, we insist that school-owned instruments are not taken interstate or overseas. If you are intending to take an extended leave of absence from school, eg: longer than normal school holidays, we ask that the instrument be returned to school for safekeeping.

Insurance of Instruments

All school hired instruments are **NOT** covered by the school insurance policy against loss or theft whilst on the school premises or whilst involved in a school band activity.

Unfortunately, the insurance of school owned instruments is a grey area. Since you do not own the instrument, it is not normally covered under your personal effects or home contents policy. A call to your insurer should ensure that the instrument could be covered. Privately owned instruments can be included in a personal effects policy. Alternatively, you can use any insurance company of your choice to see if they insure instruments.

Lessons

All students in the Band Program are required to attend 1 lesson per week on their instrument. We particularly encourage students to obtain private lessons from a professional tutor, as we find the students' progress at a more rapid rate and they achieve an enjoyment of, and commitment to their instrument at an early stage. The purpose of professional tuition is to teach the students correct technique, breathing, musical notation, sight-reading, musicality and care of the instrument. A good tutor will cover technical work such as scales and spend a little time helping your child with their music for band. The rest of the lesson can be spent on other pieces of music. Ms Hodges strongly encourages parents to attend lessons occasionally to see how their child is progressing.

A list of recommended tutors for each type of instrument is available from the Band Committee. The typical charge for private lessons is \$30.00 to \$45.00 per half hour session, depending on the teacher's qualifications.

Being a Member of the Band Program

It is important that parents or carers read through this section with their child.

There are certain obligations and responsibilities associated with being a member of a band. A band is a team and its success depends on you giving your utmost co-operation and participation.

Band Rehearsals and Performances

Where rehearsals are conducted before school, it is important that students arrive on time. This allows enough time to set up so that the Conductor can commence the rehearsal at the appropriate time and that the band gets enough time to practice together. Similarly, where rehearsals occur after school, it is important that students go straight to their rehearsal at the end of the school day.

If the quality of the band is to grow and improve, it is important for you to attend every rehearsal. Non-attendance is unfair to the other members and the Band Director. If you cannot attend a rehearsal or performance, you must advise the Band Director. If you will be away for an extended period of time, please advise the Band Conductor in writing.

For performances and competitions band members are required to arrive 45 minutes prior to allow enough time to warm up.

Students are required to practise their music, maintain good behaviour during all band activities, be punctual and attend band camp and other activities as arranged (see below).

At the end of each rehearsal or performance all members must help pack up all equipment, not just their own. All music, stands, chairs and percussion equipment must be placed in the music storeroom at the side of the stage.

Parent and carer Roster

At least one parent or carer is required to attend each rehearsal. The duties of the band parent or carer is to ensure the musicians set up and set down in a timely manner. The band parent or carer is also there to ensure the musicians are behaving in an appropriate manner. Parent or carer helpers should sit on the stage with the musicians as your presence will help dissuade any inappropriate behaviour. If you do see this happening, please just tap the child on the shoulder and remind them that they need to be watching and listening to what the conductor is saying, or what the other sections are playing.

However, the responsibility of discipline remains with the Band Director. At the start of each term, the co-ordinator will organise and distribute the roster, showing your day of attendance. If you are unable to attend on your rostered day then it is your responsibility to arrange a swap with another parent in advance, and to let the roster *organiser know via the band email address as soon as possible. It is unacceptable to just not turn up.*

Being a parent or carer on duty is a great opportunity to observe your child's participation and progress in the band. **Be sure to read all forms of communication including Compass, email, The Grapevine and the MySchoolMusic platform.**

***** All volunteers must have provided the school with a valid WWC and follow the school's sign in and sign out procedures before attending the hall for supervision *****

Band Uniform

The Band Uniform is as follows:

Band shirt

Long bottle green pants with white socks and black school shoes OR

Bottle green skirt with bottle green tights or white socks and black school shoes

Green or white hair ribbons

For Training Band - band shirts will be handed out at Band Jam In Day. When registering your child to join the Band Program you will be asked to select an appropriate shirt size for your child.

For Concert Band and Performance Band musicians who already have shirts but need to change the size, please email the Band Committee at ahpsband@gmail.com and we will change this over as soon as possible.

Band Jam In Day

Once a year we have a Band Jam In Day. In general, the day runs as follows:

Tutors attend on the day and provide intensive tuition in addition to the band practices held throughout the day. It is a time of great musical growth and promotes teamwork, which is so important for the band. It is lots of fun, too!

As well as music making there are a range of fun supervised activities. It is important that all band members make a commitment to this most valuable day. Parents or carers will be asked to supervise for a couple of hours during the Jam In Day. Any parent or carer with first aid certification would be most valuable, as we require a first aid officer on duty for the duration of the day.

Additional Band Activities

Students in all bands will be expected to participate in band competitions, festivals and public performances, both at school and at outside venues. We believe the bands' participation in the NSSWE Community Concerts, the Northern Beaches Instrumental Festival and Annual School Concert performances are most valuable and rewarding experiences for all players and their families.

The Band Director will advise you in advance what festivals and public performances we will be participating in for 2024. We use several forms of communication including Compass email, The Grapevine and the MySchoolMusic platform. Please make sure you view these on a regular basis as is the best way to keep informed as to upcoming performances.

Photography

Occasionally, photos are taken of the children performing in the bands which will appear in The Grapevine, Allambie Bands in Concert printed program, sponsorship proposals or for promotional purposes. If you object to your child being photographed, please inform the Band Committee at the start of the year.

Leaving the Band Program

Students entering the Band Program make a commitment to the band for that entire year. If your child is unhappy in the band, we strongly recommend you discuss it with the Band Conductor or a member of the Committee as the problem may be easily resolved. As a courtesy to the Band Committee, your intention to leave the band should be put in writing. In addition, instrument hire deposits cannot be refunded without this request in writing. In exceptional cases where a child needs to pull out of the program during a term, full band fees and instrument hire fees will be charged for that term.

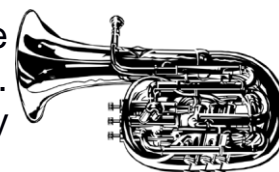
There is an expectation that your child commits to band for the duration of the year as their departure does affect the overall sound of the band.

Instruments in the School Band

Instrumental balance is the most important aspect of a successful band. Many Primary school bands are 'top heavy' as young players overlook those all-important bass instruments. At Allambie Heights we strive to achieve the most balanced sound possible, therefore please consider all the instruments below before making your final choice.

EUPHONIUM/BARITONE

The baritone is crucial to the balance of our bands as it is the lowest sounding instrument. It is similar to the tuba, but smaller. This is the instrument that started James Morrison's career. Very versatile and easy to carry, this instrument is in great demand in both primary and high school bands. Skills learned on this instrument are easily transferable to other brass instruments.



Weight of instrument in its case: 8.8 kg

Dimensions of instrument case:

A trolley can be used to transport this large instrument

TROMBONE

The trombone is well known for its unique slide, which can change pitch like no other instrument in the band. The trombone is another important part of the band's bass section, and an instrument, which can be played in Concert bands, jazz bands and orchestra, making it extremely versatile.



Weight in case: 5 kg

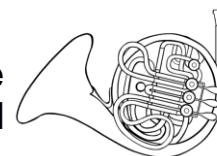
Dimensions of case: 90 cm x 25 cm x 17 cm

A trolley may be used to transport this instrument

FRENCH HORN

This is a very popular instrument that is featured in most movie soundtracks. It has a unique sound that is mellow and very beautiful and competent players of the horn are in great demand in all bands.

Children with good musical ears and switched-on brains are required for this instrument.

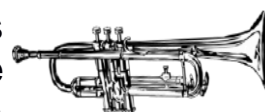


Weight in case: 7 kg

Dimensions of case: 70 cm x 45 cm (at bell end)

TRUMPET

Another popular brass instrument, the trumpet uses three valves and like all brass instruments requires the lips to 'buzz' - like blowing a raspberry! The trumpet is very versatile and is used in all styles of music - classical, rock, jazz and many more.



Weight in case: 5 kg

Dimensions of case: 50 cm x 20 cm x 14 cm

PERCUSSION/DRUMS

Contrary to popular opinion there is much more to percussion than just playing the drum kit. Percussionists will play bass drum, snare drum, cymbals, timpani, tambourine, whistles bongos and many more.

The percussionists take it in turns so everyone gets to play the drum kit. They will need a practice pad at home and bring their own drumsticks to rehearsals.

Tuned percussion instruments are those that have pitch variation and include glockenspiel, xylophone and timpani. Tuned percussionists are often called to help with auxiliary and special effect percussion.

BASS GUITAR

The Bass Guitar is an important instrument in our band. They play the low bass line along with the baritone. The school does not own any bass guitars.

To assist the children in size, it is recommended that you buy a $\frac{3}{4}$ size guitar, which is much easier for small hands. The child would need to bring the bass guitar to school for rehearsals, but they would be able to use the school amp.

CLARINET/BASS CLARINET

The clarinet is a woodwind instrument that uses a reed to produce the sound. Often called the 'liquorice stick' the clarinet is black in colour and produces a beautiful rich tone. Later in the band program clarinet players may have the opportunity to play the bass clarinet, which is another all-important bass line instrument. Skills developed on the clarinet are easily transferred to other woodwind instruments once students become competent.



Reeds will need to be bought separately.

Weight in case: 1.7 kg Dimensions of case: 20 cm x 30 cm

OBOE

If students are interested in playing the oboe, they are required to start with clarinet or flute in year 3 and will be assessed in either year 4 or year 5 (depending on musical maturity) for their suitability for playing oboe.

FLUTE

The flute is held to the side of the body and is the highest pitched instrument in the band.



Weight in case: 1.5 kg

Dimensions of: 40 cm x 10 cm x 7 cm

This is the most compact instrument in the band.

SAXOPHONE

Although made of brass, the saxophone is a woodwind instrument that uses a reed like the clarinet. Our bands use the alto saxophone and the slightly larger tenor saxophone. Both are very popular so keep other options in mind. All of the saxophones are played the same and advanced players jump from Alto to Tenor, Baritone or Soprano with ease.



Reeds need to be bought separately.

Alto Sax: Weight in case: 7 kg

Case dimensions: 65 cm x 30 cm x 17 cm

A trolley may be used to help transport the sax.