



***Concert Band
Handbook
2020***

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OVERVIEW

Introduction

Welcome to Band for 2020! This Handbook gives you an overview of all you need to know about participation in Band.

Please take the time to read this Handbook so that you get the most out of your Band experience.

Aims of Band Program

The aims of our Band program are:

- To ensure that all students' participation in the band is a happy, productive and memorable experience;
- To give every student the opportunity to play a musical instrument regardless of their musical experience;
- To give every student the opportunity to play in a group;
- To help students develop an appreciation and understanding of a wide range of musical styles;
- To develop 'musicianship' and expressive skills;
- To develop teamwork and leadership skills;
- To encourage social interaction with fellow students and teachers; and
- To encourage a sense of responsibility and commitment to themselves and the band.

Benefits

Being part of a band is a wonderful opportunity for all children. No prior musical experience is needed to join the New Band. During their time in band, your child will learn to play an instrument, read music and work together with their friends to produce wonderfully energetic, exciting, and melodic sounds. The many skills they learn (such as increased concentration and self-discipline) carry over into all parts of their lives. Most importantly, they have lots of fun!

Playing in a band can contribute to a student's non-musical development in many ways. These may include:

- Increased maturity and self-discipline
- Increased concentration and focus
- Increased self-confidence and self-esteem
- Learning about team spirit and leadership skills
- Being proud of, and representing, their school
- Creative problem solving
- The sense of 'commitment to a cause'

Instruments

Concert Band members may be given the opportunity to take on one of the more specialist instruments that require a higher level of musical skill. These include the Baritone Horn, Baritone Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Oboe, Alto Clarinet and the French Horn. Your child will be given hire preference if they commit to a specialist instrument while they are a member of the EPS Band.

Management

The band and its program are managed by parents within the Band Committee - a sub-committee of the Parents & Citizens Association of Eglinton Public School.

The Band Committee usually meets on the first Tuesday of the month, in the evening. Dates and times will be advertised in the school newsletter.

The committee's role is to plan and facilitate all band activities in conjunction with the Band Directors. The musical side of the planning is left to the Band Directors.

The Band Committee employs the Band Directors, whose role is to develop the students' musical skills through rehearsals, performances, the band camp, and a range of other activities and functions throughout the year. For the coming year, the Concert Band will be directed by Ms. Elizabeth Sargeant, and the New Band by Mrs. Hollie Coleman.

Communication

Email is the main means of communication to band parents, with regular notices of upcoming events, meetings etc. Please ensure that you provide an email address that you check regularly. Email addresses for contacting the Committee and Coordinators are provided in Section 6, Parent Helpers Appendix.

We also use the school newsletter to communicate with parents.

Parent Involvement

As with any volunteer committee, parent help is vital. There are many ways to get involved and your involvement sends a message to your child that you value the time and effort they put into their music.

Supporting your Child

This is the most important way to be involved! Your child needs constant support and encouragement to keep practicing and to ensure that they attend rehearsals and performances.

Rehearsals & Performances

Parent Helpers are essential at rehearsals since school staff are not on duty prior to 8.30am and the Directors require another adult present to assist in case a child falls ill, or music is to be copied etc. The presence of a parent helper at rehearsals helps with supervision, allowing the Band Director to focus on musical development. **A roster is developed at the start of the year so please tick the application form if you can help.** Parents do not need musical experience and may bring siblings.

At various performances throughout the year parents are always needed to help set up/clear away/transport instruments, set out chairs, hand out music etc.

Band Committee

All parents are welcome to attend Band Committee meetings. Parents are encouraged to take on one of the committee positions or just come along for a chat and to keep up-to-date.

JOINING

Instrument Hire

Band members may hire school instruments through the Band Committee. These instruments have been purchased by the Eglinton Band Committee and school using funds raised from Band Fees and fund-raising efforts.

In assigning hire instruments, preference is given to the newest Band members, with the lowest priority given to students hiring a second instrument.

Our aim is for all New Band members, and as many Intermediate and Concert Band members as possible, to be able to hire an instrument.

If you accept the hire of an instrument, the following conditions are deemed to apply: -

- The equipment remains the property of EPS Band.
- The student must be the SOLE user of this instrument.
- The instruments are not insured while in your care. Insurance for the equipment is the hirer's responsibility.
- If the instrument is lost, stolen or irreparably damaged the hirer agrees to pay the EPS Band the AGREED VALUE of the instrument.
- Should it become necessary, instruments must be repaired only by a repairer authorised by the Band Committee.
- The student should seek instruction from his/her private tutor on how to care for his/her instrument when they are issued.
- Band will pay for up to two repairs per year as a result of fair wear and tear. Repairs required as a result of any damage caused by mishandling must be paid for by the hirer or the repair cost will be deducted from the bond.

- Fees are to be paid per term. Instruments may not be hired for subsequent terms if the account is in arrears.
- All equipment must be returned, clean and in good order, after the Band has performed at the EPS Presentation Day. If the student does not attend Presentation Day instruments are to be returned before the end of the last full week of school.
- Instruments must be returned within one week of leaving Band for any reason. Fees are paid per Term and no refund will be given for part completion of a Term. Contact the Band Committee (eglintonbandcommittee@gmail.com) to arrange handover.

Band Fees

Band fees are levied to cover the various costs of running the band including director's fees, instrument purchases, instrument maintenance, competition fees and general administrative costs. The music fee covers the purchase of new music and music folders at the commencement of each year.

The band aims to be self-sufficient in respect to its financial operations, and fees are set at the minimum level to cover costs.

The fees for 2020 are:

Music Fee

\$20 (Term 1 only) per student

Band Fee

\$50 per term per student

Family Discount

Where more than one child from the same family is enrolled in band, all children will be charged at the discounted rate of \$40 per term. This discount is given each term on Band fees.

Instrument Hire Fees:

If a student hires their instrument through the Band program the following rates apply:

Instrument	Refundable Bond (February)	Service Fee (February)	Hire per Term (Each Term)	Approx. Instrument Value (new)
Flute/Clarinet	\$80	\$80	\$35	\$700-\$1000
Trumpet/Trombone	\$80	\$80	\$35	\$500-\$1000
Alto Saxophone	\$80	\$110	\$45	\$1000-\$1800
Bass Clarinet	\$120	\$110	\$45	\$1500-\$2500
Alto Clarinet	\$150	\$150	\$45	\$2000-3000
Tenor Sax/Baritone Sax	\$150	\$150	\$45	\$1500-\$3000
French Horn/Oboe	\$150	\$150	\$45	\$2000-2500
Baritone Horn	\$150	\$150	\$45	\$1800-2500

Payment

Band Fees are invoiced by the Band Committee under the Eglinton Public School P&C.

The fees for each term must be paid by the Term Invoice due date. If fees are not paid by the due date your child may be asked to stand down from the band until the fees are paid. The band operates on a minimum cash flow on a fine line between breaking even and so regular payments are essential.

Should you experience difficulty in paying the fees, please contact the Band Book-keeper to discuss a payment plan.

Extra Costs

When considering the overall financial implications of joining Band, please keep the following expenses in mind:

- Private Tuition is essential (see the Practicing Section) and will cost you approximately \$25 - \$40 per week for 40 weeks a year.
 - Clarinet, saxophone and oboe players need spare reeds in their instrument case. Most reeds can be purchased in bulk from music shops and individually from the EPS canteen (between \$4-\$8 instrument dependent). Oboe reeds are approximately \$25 each.

REHEARSING

Schedule

New Band rehearsals are held on Wednesday mornings in the EPS Hall commencing at 8:30am. In Term 1 of the year New Band will meet in smaller instrument groups so that the Director can give them closer instruction while they are getting to know their instrument.

Concert Band rehearsals are held on Tuesday morning in the EPS Hall, commencing at 8:30am. Students should arrive promptly to help set up the hall and prepare their instrument and music. It is essential that rehearsals start on time as we want to maximise the Director's time.

Rehearsals all finish at 9:15am. Students should take their instruments directly to their classroom to ensure safe-keeping.

Attendance

Being a band member is just like being part of a sports team. **Students are expected to attend all the scheduled rehearsals and all performances.** This ensures that both the student and their band are able to achieve their best performance.

A band relies on a balance of sound, both at practice and in concert conditions. If a student doesn't turn up it makes rehearsals less effective for the rest of the band and diminishes the quality of performances.

If a student cannot attend because of illness please text your Band Director to let them know. If a student cannot attend for some other important reason, please let the Band Director know as soon as possible, preferably well in advance of the occasion.

Equipment

It's great if your child can have all of the following at every rehearsal:

- Instrument (and spare reeds for reeded instruments)
- Band Book and Blue Band Folder with music in good order (this will provided)
- pencil and eraser

Code of Conduct

Band is like any other School activity, and our Directors are teachers. We expect the same behavior from students as in a classroom.

It is important that all Band members respect the EPS school rules set by the school and which equally applies to activity within the band. Band members are required to show respect, courtesy and consideration to the Director and fellow members at all times.

The student Welfare Policy is in force during all rehearsals and performances and students who do not adhere to these requirements will risk being asked to leave the rehearsal or performance. Students will first be given warnings about inappropriate behavior.

Band Directors will allocate Band Member of the Month awards to recognize good behavior, dedication to the band and musicianship.

Parent Helpers

As noted in Section 1, having Parent Helpers at rehearsals is essential. The role of the Parent Helper is to:

- Take music to the office for copying if required;
- Help with Band set-up and pack-up as necessary;
- Assist with discipline when asked;
- Accompany students if they need to leave the rehearsal for any reason; and
- Generally act as a second pair of hands and support for the Director so that he/she may concentrate on managing the rehearsal and conducting the Band.

Extra Activities including Band Camp

The EPS Band Committee looks for extra events and activities for Band students to take part in. In 2019 this included a Band Friday Fun Day and a non-residential Band Camp held on a weekend at EPS. The camp comprised of intensive sectional and full band rehearsals, and culminated in a concert for friends and family.

But it's not all hard work!

We work to ensure that the students have time for social and recreational activities because, after all, it's a gorgeous group of students who get great enjoyment just by hanging about together!

PRACTISING & INDIVIDUAL TUITION

Expectations

Regular practice (at least 3 – 4 times a week in addition to their lesson and rehearsal) is vital when children are learning an instrument. If they don't practice they may fall behind, lose confidence and eventually give up. Practice charts and reward systems work well for most students.

Practice sessions should start at 10 minutes and increase to 30 min by the time the child is in Years 5 and 6.

Help your child to practice by creating a regular space in their schedule and a suitable space with a music stand, proper chair, and instrument stand (optional).

Individual Tuition

All members of each band are required to have individual tuition on their instrument. In band, students learn ensembles skills, but in order to learn to play their instrument they must have individual tuition from an approved teacher.

Instrumental lessons are weekly and generally 20-30 mins in length.

Your child will get the best and most experienced tuition on his/her instrument from a tutor who has a music degree and has teaching experience. The current rate for a ½ lesson is up to \$40, which is the rate recommended by the Australian Music Teachers Association.

Local music tutors who attend EPS for individual music lessons are listed below:

Independent Tutors

Denise Chapman – Clarinet

Elizabeth Sargeant – Woodwind & Brass

Ellisa Jones - Trombone

Millaine Longmore – Percussion

Chris Dove – Brass

Mitchell Conservatorium Tutors

Hollie Coleman – Woodwind

Rhonda Coleman – Flute

Graeme Hunt – Bass Guitar

For more information about these tutors please contact eglintonbandcommittee@gmail.com

Instrument Purchase

It is recommended that a good quality student model instrument be purchased after the student's first year in the band. This first year of hiring an instrument allows you to gauge a student's commitment to an instrument and the band program. However, due to the demand for hire instruments by New Band, school hire instruments are often not available to students moving on from New Band to Concert Band.

You should also keep in mind the ongoing cost of hiring an instrument over several years can be offset against an early instrument purchase.

As with any significant purchase it is important to buy an instrument that is of a good quality and will play in tune with all the other instruments in the band. Cheaper instruments often present a false economy as they require additional maintenance and do not last as long.
Please ask your tutor or Band Director for advice on instrument purchase.

PERFORMING

School Performances

Throughout the year all bands take part in performances at school. These performances are an opportunity for band members to get used to performing in front of an audience, and for parents to see how their children are progressing. They also provide a showcase for the school's band program.

School Performances are listed in our Band Newsletter, advertised in the EPS newsletter and communicated to parents via email.

External Performances

Bands will also be involved in external performances such as competitions and other opportunities within the local community. This year the bands have performed as part of the Eglinton Country Fair, at a local aged care facility and school assemblies, and also as a competitor in the Bathurst Eisteddfod.

Uniform

Generally, when the Bands perform for school functions they do so in full school uniform. In the summer, for girls this is the tunic, a short sleeved white cotton dress shirt, white socks and black shoes. Boys wear blue cotton shorts, a blue cotton dress shirt, grey socks and black shoes. For winter the official school jumper is added and boys substitute the grey trousers for shorts. We especially ask that shoes are all black and preferably dress shoes, it makes such a difference on a stage! 2020 may see the purchase of a set of special uniforms for the band, a tie/vest or otherwise – we will keep you posted.

ASSISTANCE & SUPPORT

Musical Progress

If you have any concerns or questions about the musical progress of your child, please contact your Band Director:

- CONCERT BAND – Chris Dove chris_dove_trumpet@hotmail.com
- NEW BAND – Hollie Coleman hollie.coleman@mitchellconservatorium.edu.au

Instrument Hire, Fees & Anything Else

If you have any questions about hiring an instrument, repairs, servicing or instrument returns, please contact our Committee:

- BAND PRESIDENT – Emma Grabham eglintonbandcommittee@gmail.com

Questions?

We hope this handbook gives you an insight into the Band Program - how it works and the commitment and work involved in making it a success for each child and both of the Bands. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Band Committee (eglintonbandcommittee@gmail.com) who will be able to assist you.



EGLINTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

Band and Instrumental Music Program

BAND REGISTRATION FORM FOR NEW AND RETURNING STUDENTS

Please complete this form and return to the school office prior to the end of term.

Student Name:..... Class (this year):.....
 Date of Birth:...../...../..... Instrument:.....
 Parent(s)/Guardians(s) Name:.....
 Home Address:.....
 Postal Address:.....
 Preferred Phone contact: Home:..... Mobile:.....
 Email:..... (Email is the main method of distributing info)
 Does your child have any special needs that you would like the Band Director to be informed of?
 These may include learning difficulties and/or medical requirements.

PARENT ROSTER

- Yes, I would like to volunteer for the parent roster to supervise/assist at morning band practise (8:30-9:30am on Tuesday for Concert band, Wednesday for New Band).
- No, unfortunately I am unable to volunteer for the Band roster.

MUSIC LESSONS

- My child will be having music lessons at school, or at another time outside of school.
- I have enrolled with (or will be enrolling with):
 Mitchell Conservatorium—Tutor’s name:.....
 Independent tutor—Tutor’s name:.....

Or

- I do not know who to enrol my student with and would like to receive some more information.

INSTRUMENT HIRE/PURCHASE

- I have applied for a School Hire Instrument We will provide our own instrument

**Please note that Band fees in 2020 will again be \$50/term. If families have more than 1 child in the band program the fees will be \$40/child/term. After 15 years of cost increases the decision has had to be made to increase the fees to secure the program’s future.*

AGREEMENT

STUDENT: I will commit to the Band program to the best of my ability, for at least one school year, practise my instrument regularly, attend music lessons and band practise every week as well as take part in Band performances. Signature:..... Date:...../...../.....

PARENT/GUARDIAN: I/We agree to help our child meet the conditions of their agreement. I/We have read the information guide and agree to cover the financial obligations involved. Signature:..... Date:...../...../.....



EGLINTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

Band and Instrumental Music Program

SCHOOL INSTRUMENT HIRE APPLICATION FORM

STUDENT: _____ CLASS: _____ Date of Birth: _____

PARENTS: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

INSTRUMENT: _____

Please complete the sections below stating why you would like to hire this instrument from the school.

STUDENT TO COMPLETE:

_____ Student's signature: _____

PARENT TO COMPLETE:

I have read and agree to the Instrument Hire Terms and Conditions (see following page).

Parent's signature: _____

Please return this form before the end of term

Return in an envelope to the Band Committee c/o school office

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The term of the instrument hire is one school year. The instrument must be returned to the school following the final performance or band rehearsal of the year. This is generally EPS Presentation Day.

2. FEES:

- a. The **hiring fee** is charged per term.
- b. An initial payment is required. This is comprised of an **instrument service fee** and a **refundable bond** if the instrument is returned in good condition and no additional repairs are needed.
- c. The initial payment fee must be paid before the instrument will be issued.
- d. The Band Committee will invoice these fees.
- e. Fees must be paid by the due date. If fees are overdue, the hiring agreement may be cancelled.
- f. The refundable bond will be returned in Term 1 of the following year upon the receipt of a satisfactory service report.

g. FEES TABLE 2020

<i>Instrument</i>	<i>Refundable Bond (February)</i>	<i>Service Fee (February)</i>	<i>Hire per Term (Each Term)</i>	<i>Approx. Instrument Value (new)</i>
Flute/Clarinet	\$80	\$80	\$35	\$300-\$1000
Trumpet/Trombone	\$80	\$80	\$35	\$150-\$1000
Alto Saxophone	\$80	\$110	\$45	\$800-\$1800
Bass Clarinet	\$120	\$110	\$45	\$1500-\$2500
Alto Clarinet	\$150	\$150	\$45	\$2000-3000
Tenor Sax/Baritone Sax	\$150	\$150	\$45	\$1500-\$3000
French Horn/Oboe	\$150	\$150	\$45	\$2000-2500
Baritone Horn	\$150	\$150	\$45	\$1800-2500

3. The student must have individual music lessons for the instrument hired.
4. The student must participate fully in the Band Program as described in the Information Booklet and Registration Form.
5. Priority for hiring some instruments will be given to junior students –i.e. 1st year of music training. There *may* be an option to renew the hiring agreement the following year provided there is no application from a junior student. Other instruments, requiring more musical skill, will be reserved for selected senior band members and they will have preference while they are a member of the EPS Band and provided they demonstrate suitable commitment and progress.
6. **The Band Committee will undertake up to 2 reasonable wear and tear repairs during the hire term if necessary, however any services required for mishandling are the hirer's responsibility (except manufacturer's faults). Repairs must be carried out by an authorized agent and the band committee notified. Further details of these responsibilities are available in the 2020 Band Handbook.**