

Band Program Parent Information Checklist/Guide

Making contact

Website:	<p>www.teachingservices.com.au</p> <p>You can find your school listed in our website under "Band Notes". Here you can find links to any correspondence that has been forwarded to you by your Band Director.</p>
Administration:	<p>info@teachingservices.com.au or 9651 7333</p> <p>Including billing, instrument accessories, extended periods of absence</p>
Band Director:	<p>Email (you should have received an email from your band director by now, please contact the admin office if you have not)</p> <p>You can contact your child's band director for information regarding timetables, band rehearsals, start time, and concerns regarding progress</p>

What your child needs: (depending on which instrument)

- Instrument to practice (all students need an instrument)
- Accent on Achievement book to progress through
- Music Stand (optional but recommended for home practice)
- Valve/slide oil (brass only)
- Brass mute (optional, for practise at home if too loud without)
- Spare reed supply (saxophone and clarinet only)
- CD Player, to play CD from *Accent On Achievement* book (optional but recommended)
- Tuner (bass guitar only)
- Cleaning kit (all instruments need regular cleaning. The kit can be purchased separately if required)

Practice = Progress = Sense of Achievement = Success

- Set a regular practice time (before school / after homework / after dinner)
- Arrange a set *place* to practice (lounge room / bedroom / study)
- 5min a day for a beginner is a good start - work towards 15+ minutes, 3-4 times a week by end of year
- **Show an interest in their learning** ("show me what you did in band today" or get them to give you a lesson!!)
- Practice the exercises circled by teacher in accent on achievement book (avg. 3-4 per week)
- The circles will be ticked once achieved, more exercises will be circled for the following week
- Routine & repetition are key
- Perfect posture is paramount (your child will learn correct posture during their lesson. refer to pg 3)
- Be an **encourager!** (learning an instrument takes time, effort, commitment, repetition & a pat on the back)
- Don't make music a chore, don't say "practise" but rather "play" your instrument

Instrument Set-up & Care Tips refer to the 'Resources' section of TSA website for some helpful videos on instrument care

Brass Instruments (Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone, Euphonium)

- The valves, slide and tuning zones need oiling every 1-2 weeks (10mins)
- The mouthpiece can be cleaned using warm water and a brush

Woodwind Instruments (Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone)

- Always twist the parts together rather than push
- After each use, the instrument needs a cleaning swab pulled through it.
- Corks need greasing regularly to help put the components together
- Flute joints need to be wiped after each use (30 sec)

Bass Guitar

- The strings should be wiped after each use using a soft cloth
- The lead should be rolled neatly after use to avoid damage
- Practice using the tuner

Percussion

- Drum sticks and mallets should be carried in a "stick bag" to avoid them becoming lost
- Wipe over your drums and cymbals with a dry cloth to avoid excess dust
- Practice sticking on a practice pad
- Practice the glockenspiel to become a well-rounded percussionist

Holiday Band Workshops and Band Camps

Each year, TSA holds band holiday workshops between terms 1 & 2. They are a great way to help kick start your child's musical journey or for those students who have been learning for a year or 2 already, the workshops are a fantastic way to extend your child's musical skills as well meeting other like-minded children. More detailed information will become available soon or check our website in the coming weeks.

During terms 3 and 4, TSA runs 5 weekend Band Camps. These camps are held at Vision Valley in Arcadia and are an amazing experience for your child. The weekend is filled with intensive music playing followed by an array of fun activities. See our website for more details.

Boring (Important) Admin Stuff!!

- Accessories – call TSA office (9651 7333), pay with credit card and can be delivered to school
- Changes to Enrolment – please make any changes to your child's enrolment before the new term starts
- Absence Policy – please read TSA terms and conditions for details but main point is to remember that group lessons go ahead whether your child is present or absent and so cannot be refunded, credited or made up except in exceptional circumstances. *TSA tutors will ALWAYS catch students up on any content they missed the following week if they are away.* Please notify your tutor of any absences, in advance if possible.
- Please don't return notes to your child's school office unless marked to do so. All TSA paperwork should be sent to TSA office directly or handed to your child's band director in person at rehearsal.