

North Rocks PS Band and String Program – 2026

Dear Parents,

Welcome back, and a very special welcome to our new students and parents! We are looking forward to another great year of making music: this will be TSA's 25th year of running the North Rocks PS band program!! Correspondence will be via email: please ensure TSA has your current email address and check your junk/spam folder for communications.

BAND NEW BEGINNERS *(those learning an instrument for the first time in 2026)*

There are two components to the Band Program: group lessons and a full band rehearsal both held on the same day.

- **Group lessons:** Start Tuesday 10 February. Students will be collected from their class.
- **What to bring:** Instrument and *Accent on Achievement* book if already purchased, and those items ordered through TSA will be distributed in the first lesson.
- **Full Band Rehearsal:** Beginners **will not** be required at band rehearsal until **Term 2**. Rehearsals will take place after school on Tuesday. Parents should pick up from the Hall at 4pm.

The first lesson will focus on showing new students how to set-up and care for their instruments. A final timetable of lesson groups will be developed in conjunction with the school early in the new term.

INTERMEDIATE BAND *(those who were in the Beginner Band in 2025)*

- **Group lessons:** Start Tuesday 10 February. Students will be collected from their class.
- **Full band rehearsal:** Starts Tuesday 10 February 7:45-8:45am in the Hall.
- **What to bring:** Instrument & pencil, *Accent on Achievement* book and band folder.

PERFORMANCE BAND *(those who were in the Intermediate Band in 2025)*

- **Group lessons:** Start Tuesday 10 February. Students will be collected from their class.
- **Full band rehearsal:** Starts Tuesday 10 February 7:45-8:45am in the Hall.
- **What to bring:** Instrument & pencil, *Accent on Achievement* book and band folder.

STRING ENSEMBLE *(a separate email will be sent to string parents next week with more detailed information)*

There are THREE levels of string program at NRPS in 2026:

1. Senior String Ensemble *(for students who have had 2+ years of private tuition and play at an AMEB grade 2+ level)*
-rehearsals take place Wednesdays 7:45am-8:45am in the hall commencing 11 February
2. Junior String Ensemble *(for students enrolled in private tuition in their first few years of learning)*
-rehearsals take place at lunchtime Wednesdays in the hall commencing 11 February
3. Beginner String Groups *(for students in their first year of playing a string instrument)*
-group lessons take place after school: parents have been sent lesson times by email

IMPORTANT ITEMS

Fees – In 2026, ensemble and group tuition fees will be \$240 per term plus \$10 resource levy fee. TSA will email invoices/process direct debits at the beginning of each school term, and payment needs to be finalised within 2 weeks of issue or late fees will apply.

Absence from Band – if your child will be absent from band or lessons please notify the band director. In particular, absences from rehearsals outside of school hours must be communicated clearly so we can confirm your child is safe and accounted for.

Creative Kids Vouchers – TSA is a registered provider and families with Creative Kids Vouchers can apply them to term fees by entering voucher details via the TSA website here: <https://teachingservices.com.au/creative-kids/>.

Exiting the Program – TSA requires notice by the end of term if your child wishes to exit the program in the next term.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Band Director: Ms Lucia Bichara lucia@teachingservices.com.au (timetabling, band rehearsals)
String Ensemble: Ms Meredith Hastings meredith@teachingservices.com.au (timetabling, band rehearsals)
TSA Administration: 9651 7333 ext 2 (enrolments, billing, instrument hire and service)
tsaoffice@teachingservices.com.au

Please let us know if we can assist you in any way.

www.teachingservicesaustralia.com.au