



# BAND PROGRAM

## 2025 HANDBOOK



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## WELCOME TO THE JOHN PURCHASE PUBLIC SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM

John Purchase Public School (JPPS), in partnership with Teaching Services Australia (TSA), welcomes you to the John Purchase Public School Band Program!

This booklet will give families an overview of how the band program operates.

Participating in the band program at JPPS is a fun and valuable learning experience for children. Through consistent effort and regular practice, children will develop their own musical skills and play together in a band. Band members will enjoy the excitement of competitions and the pleasure of performing as a team, in front of peers and the school community.

Becoming a band member at JPPS also provides a great opportunity for children across stages to get to know each other better. **Please review this handbook with your child.** It is important that all members of the bands and their parents/guardians understand the conditions of band membership.

Should you have any queries, concerns, or suggestions, contact should first be made through Teaching Services Australia. We look forward to your family's involvement in the Band Program!

### ABOUT US

The John Purchase Public School band program currently consists of two bands - Training Band and Concert Band. We are looking forward to building the band program at JPPS in the coming years.

Students from Years 3-6 are eligible to join the band.

Each year, the bands perform at a variety of school events such as school assemblies, family concerts, eisteddfods and festivals.

### COMMUNICATION

The main form of communication between families & TSA happens via email and the TSA website. We strive to give as much notice and information as possible of upcoming events with notes sent directly to band families via email.

Band administration is run separately from the school office. Band families should contact TSA directly by email or phone:

**Email:** [info@teachingservices.com.au](mailto:info@teachingservices.com.au)

**Phone:** 9651 7333 ext 2

**Website:** [www.teachingservices.com.au](http://www.teachingservices.com.au)

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parents are encouraged to contribute to the band program by helping as needed. For example, this may include providing extra supervision at events or packing away band equipment and chairs following performances.

## JOINING THE BAND

The band program is open to all students from Years 3-6. To enrol in the school band, simply return the TSA enrolment form enclosed to TSA directly with any other relevant forms. An intake is held at the end of Term 4, for the next calendar year.

The structure of the program is as follows:

- **Training Band**  
Any child in Year 3 or above can join. No musical experience is required. Training Band members usually start in Year 3, although some start in Years 4, 5 or 6. There is no minimum requirement for Training Band members and no formal audition is required.
- **Intermediate Band**  
Students automatically progress to the Intermediate band after completing 1 year in the training band.
- **Concert Band**  
The Concert Band is mostly made up of children in Years 5 and 6. Students progress to the Concert Band after one year in the Intermediate Band and meeting certain competencies.

## COMMITMENT

Band members are expected to commit to the band program on a semester basis (as a minimum), however, it is important that each student endeavours to remain in the band for at least one full year.

If your child does not wish to continue in band, please discuss the issues with TSA. Should you decide to withdraw your child from the band program before the end of a term, you will still be charged the fees for the full term.

**Concert  
Band**



## **INSTRUMENTS**

Children will attend an instrument demonstration concert at school, and then have an opportunity to meet a tutor to run through some tests (to demonstrate how easily they can shape their mouth, hand size, etc) A recommendation for the most suitable instrument for each child is then made, and a balanced band is created. It is important that a child is comfortable with their choice of instrument. Parents have several options to obtain an instrument for their child, including hiring a brand-new new instrument from TSA, or purchasing a new or secondhand instrument.

The instruments available to play in the school band include:

Flute	Trumpet	Percussion
Clarinet	Trombone	Electric Bass Guitar
Alto saxophone	French Horn	Bass Clarinet
Tenor saxophone	Baritone Horn	Baritone saxophone
Oboe**	Euphonium	Tuba**
Bassoon**		

*\*\*Please contact TSA for more information prior to enrolment*

## **INSTRUMENT HIRE**

Brand new instruments may be hired from TSA for a monthly fee. TSA hires brand-new instruments so that parents may have the option to buy-out their instrument if they choose. Flute, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, euphonium/baritone horn, bass guitar, clarinet and French horn are all available on the TSA hire scheme.

## **INSTRUMENT PURCHASE**

TSA offers discounted new and second-hand instruments for purchase. Second-hand instruments come serviced, cleaned and with a balance of warranty (up to 2 years). Accessories and books can also be purchased to be sent directly to the school. Please call TSA for more information on instrument or accessory purchases.



## CARE OF INSTRUMENTS

Students are asked to look after their own instrument and to respect others' instruments. Please check with your tutor for information on how to clean and care for your specific instrument.

Please note:

- Instruments must be clearly labelled with name, address, telephone number and school. Take special care on public transport and in the school playground.
- Exposure to sun and hot vehicles can damage the instrument and the case.
- Any malfunction of, or damage to instruments must be brought to the attention of TSA immediately. Please do not try to repair instruments yourself or take them to another music shop.

## BAND REHEARSALS

Rehearsals take place in the school Hall promptly at 7:30am. Students arrive at 7:20am to help set up.

<b>Band</b>	<b>Rehearsal Day</b>
Concert Band	Monday
Intermediate Band	Wednesday
Training Band	Tuesday

## REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE

All band members must attend every rehearsal, as they are part of a team. If your child cannot attend a rehearsal or performance, TSA should be notified by email as soon as possible. If an instrument is being repaired, attendance is still required at band rehearsal. It is important to be present to keep up with instructions and tuition given to your section and/or to the whole band. All band members must bring their music book/folder to each practice session.

## BEHAVIOUR DURING REHEARSAL & PERFORMANCES

A high standard of self-discipline is required of each band member. This includes good listening skills and teamwork. There will be times when students will be required to sit quietly and listen to the playing of other members or sections of the band. The John Purchase Public School Expectations of 'Respect', 'Responsibility' and 'Aspire' also apply to band. Students should follow the JPPS expectations for Extra-Curricular groups, included below.

All students are required to assist with the setting up of band equipment before rehearsals and packing it away again afterwards. Every student is expected to help. Students are not permitted to leave a rehearsal or performance until all the equipment (music stands, chairs, drum kit, etc) has been packed away. This can be done quickly and easily if everyone cooperates.



## EXTRA-CURRICULAR GROUPS



RESPECT	RESPONSIBILITY	ASPIRE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be punctual to all rehearsals, tutorials and performances</li><li>• Listen to and follow the instructions of teachers and tutors</li><li>• Cooperate with and respect the rights of other students, peer leaders and adults</li><li>• Uphold all JPPS expectations when attending external venues</li><li>• Display good sportsmanship in competitive settings</li><li>• Abide by the important decisions of the judge, referee or umpire</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bring all necessary equipment, costumes and uniforms to all rehearsals, tutorials, performances and competitions</li><li>• Help set up and pack up neatly and safely</li><li>• Be aware of and attend all practices, rehearsals, competitions and performances</li><li>• Care for personal and hired equipment and costumes</li><li>• Display commitment to the group</li><li>• Behave responsibly on public transport and in the community at large</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Participate for learning and enjoyment</li><li>• Work equally hard for yourself and your group</li><li>• Be a good team member</li><li>• Have fun and improve your skills</li><li>• Be humble in success and gracious in defeat, including congratulating the winning team</li><li>• Be a positive role model</li></ul>

### PRACTICE AT HOME

Regular daily practice of band pieces is essential to keep up with the challenges and demands of the band. If members fall behind, they may lose interest and feel discouraged. They may also jeopardise the progress of the whole band.

Initially, small amounts of regular practice is necessary (10-15 minutes at least four times per week). This will gradually expand to longer periods as your child improves. Practice needs to become a GOOD HABIT; this will only happen through repetition. Please encourage your child to practise.

### TUITION

Children must attend weekly instrumental tuition outside of the band rehearsals.

For Training Band students, group instrumental tuition lessons are held at school, usually before or after school. Parents will be informed of the day and time of group lessons as soon as possible after enrolment, most likely in January 2025.

Group lessons for beginners are invoiced directly to parents by TSA. Makeup lessons or refunds for missed group lessons are not possible for except in cases of hardship or prolonged absences for medical reasons.

After their first year of learning, students move out of group tuition and into private lessons either at school (if available) or at one of many local providers. Parents are responsible for setting up private tuition for their child. A list of recommended tutors will be provided to parents as their children near the end of their first year of learning.

### BAND EVENTS

Band members are expected to participate in all band activities. When a child is unable to attend a scheduled band performance or event due to an unavoidable conflict, parents are to provide notice in advance to TSA. This is a courtesy to the conductor and to other band members, who depend on the whole band to be there and play their part.

## **BAND WORKSHOP**

The band workshop is a **compulsory** event for all band members. It is a one-day intensive music workshop that will be held to prepare for band competitions. The workshop is held at school over a weekend.

The fees collected for the workshop cover the cost of the conductors, tutors, activities, music, equipment and all other administration.

## **BAND UNIFORM**

Students wear their band uniform for public performances unless otherwise notified in the school newsletter or via email from the Band Coordinator.

Band uniform consists of:

- short-sleeved polo shirt with logo, provided to band members by the JPPS P&C Band Committee
- clean black school shoes & green socks
- black long pants

## **WITHDRAWAL FROM THE BAND PROGRAM**

Please advise the TSA office in writing if you intend to withdraw permanently from the band. No refund will be made for:

- Band fees for the current term
- Workshop fees
- Hire fees
- Music book



**Training  
Band**

## Band Fees

All band students are required to pay a band rehearsal/membership fee.

Band fees are invoiced by TSA at the beginning of each term. It's important that parents pay the fees promptly upon receipt of the invoices, as these fees are required to cover all band costs including wages for conductors and the administration of the program.

All group lesson fees and band rehearsal fees are fixed for the term, regardless of the number of weeks.

If you have difficulties with payment or would like to discuss another method of payment please contact TSA. The purchase of consumables such as reeds or oils are not covered by instrument hire fees and are the responsibility of the instrument user.

Item	Amount
<p><b>Group Lessons</b> <i>Training Band - beginners only, Includes band membership</i></p> <p><b>Band Only Fee</b> <i>Concert &amp; Intermediate Band</i></p> <p><b>Private Lesson Fee</b> <i>if available</i></p> <p><b>Enrolment Fee</b> <i>payable upon initial enrolment with TSA</i></p>	<p>\$260 per term</p> <p>\$125 per term</p> <p>\$510 per term</p> <p>\$30</p>
<p><b>Band Workshop</b> <i>1-day compulsory workshop</i> <i>Covers conductor &amp; tutors' fees, music and administration</i></p>	<p>\$120 per student TBC</p>
<p><b>Music Book</b> (Accent on Achievement)</p>	<p>Included in enrolment fee</p>
<p><b>Resource Levy</b> <i>Covers incidental whole-band band expenses, such as festival entry fees, purchase to musical scores, power boards, percussion servicing, etc.</i></p>	<p>\$10 per term</p>



## RESPECT – RESPONSIBILITY – ASPIRE

### Respect

- Follow the instructions of the Band Director, tutor, teachers and coordinators
- Show respect for fellow band members' instruments.
- Allow yourself and others to learn in tutorials and band rehearsals
- Play your instrument only when asked

### Responsibility

- Be on time to band rehearsals and lessons
- Be prepared with your instrument and equipment
- Band members represent our school with their uniform and conduct.
- Share in the packing away and care of band equipment
- Commit to the band 'team' and attend all rehearsals and performance events

### Aspire

- Practise regularly to keep up with the band and continually improve
- Be resilient
- Set a good example for your fellow band members, and the younger bands

