



MANLY WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL

band@manlywestpandc.org.au

Manly West School Band Program Information Sheet 2019

Welcome to Manly West Band Program. We are excited to offer your child the opportunity to learn an instrument and participate in the rewarding experience of being part of a band. The Manly West Band program is co-ordinated by the Band Director, the Band Coordinator and the volunteer P&C Band Committee in conjunction with Manly West Primary School.

Why join the program?

Being a band member can be a truly rewarding experience. Apart from the joy of playing a musical instrument, students develop self-discipline, teamwork and confidence through rehearsing and performing. Participating in the Band program gives students a sense of personal achievement, while allowing them to be part of a diverse group within the school community. The Band program is an important and positive part of school life at Manly West and students can be proud of being members of Band, whatever their skill level may be. For students who discover that playing an instrument is something they really enjoy and are good at, Band may also create a pathway to further musical programs at a regional/community level or later in high school. The Band program also brings pleasure through music to the wider community, broadening the horizons of all students who participate and instilling in them a life-long appreciation of music.

Who can join?

Band membership is open to any student in Years 3–6 at Manly West. No prior musical experience is needed to join the Training Band. Beyond Training Band, membership of the other bands is decided by the Band Director after (a low-key) audition in late November each year. Training Band members generally progress into Intermediate Band.

How can we join?

Please go online to portal.msmlmusic.com.au/manlywestbands and fill in the Expression of Interest form there before **Tuesday 12 November 2019**. Blow Tests will be on Friday 15 November.

Who leads our band program?

Our Band Director is Penny Coucill B.Mus.Ed. Penny has been with Manly West since 2004, and is very highly regarded and respected by students, parents and her peers.

How many bands are there?

We have four bands, each with brass, wind and percussion instruments. In order of their playing standard, they are:

- Training Band (TB) (predominantly students from years 3 and 4)
- Intermediate Band (IB)
- Concert Band (CB)
- Performance Band (PB) (predominantly students from year 6)

What commitment will WE be making?

Every member of band is important and relied upon to attend all rehearsals and performances, including band camp.

Band commitments should take precedence over ALL other extra-curricular activities. Students are also expected to remain in the band program for the WHOLE school year.

Each week during term time, students will need to allow time for:

- 2 full band rehearsals (one morning and one afternoon)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
8:00- 9:00am	Concert	Intermediate	Training	Performance
3:30- 4:30pm	Training	Performance	Intermediate	Concert

- a sectional tutorial (not for Training Band)
- a professional half-hour private lesson per week
- 3-5 practice sessions of 15-20 minutes each

Financial Commitment:

The Manly West Band program is an extra-curricular program funded through membership fees. It is not funded by the school. Band fees are used to cover the professional costs of the Band Director and all the sectional tutors and the instrument hire fees pay for the program's instrument maintenance and replacement. Operation of the Band program relies on the timely payment of band fees by all Band families.

Training Band Fees for 2019:

Once off Joining Fee: \$75

Semester Rehearsal Fees: \$290 (which pays for 2 one hour rehearsals per week for 2 terms)

Semester Instrument Hire: \$130 (which covers hire of an instrument for 2 terms)

** Please be advised that the fees listed above are an indication of those for 2020. There may be a slight increase.**

What instruments are played?

flute	trumpet	bass guitar
clarinet	trombone	keyboard
bass clarinet	euphonium	percussion
alto saxophone	tenor saxophone	french horn
		bassoon

Which instrument will my child play?

Students will try out the instruments in a 'blow test' during school time on Friday November 15. Experience has shown that some instruments suit some students better than others, and the blow test finds this out. Allocation of instruments is based on the suitability of the instrument to the student, a blow test, instrument ownership, preferences and the balance of instruments across the band.

Do you need your own instrument?

The Band Program welcomes students who have their own instrument but ownership is not essential for band members in their first year. Most students from the Training Band will be able to hire their instrument from the school. Band has its own electric keyboard and percussion kit, which are kept in the hall, although families whose children are allocated these instruments will need to purchase something suitable to practise with at home. Some instruments (flutes, clarinets, trumpets and alto saxophones) can only be hired for one year, before they will be needed for the following year's Training Band.

What other bits and pieces do you need to buy for your child's instrument?

It is the family's responsibility to look after the hire instrument and to purchase other "personal" items needed to play and look after it – this includes reeds, cork grease, pull through cleaners, valve oil etc needed for the normal maintenance and playing of the instrument. These bits and pieces are available at music shops.

What happens if an instrument is damaged or lost?

Where a hired instrument is lost or damaged (such as by being dropped), it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to either replace it or arrange for its repair by a qualified technician, who will be selected by the Band Director. Where the instrument is damaged through normal wear and tear, however, it may be repaired at the Band program's expense if the Band Director or a Committee member is notified immediately.

Instrument lessons

Private lessons must be organised by parents/guardians outside school hours and paid for independently. To assist parents, the Band committee has a list of tutors who are well known to the Band Director, many of whom tutor at the school. It is up to parents, however, to arrange for private lessons and to decide on a suitable teacher for their child. This should usually be arranged before the start of Term 1 as private tutors often settle their timetables early in the calendar year.

Band performances

Manly West bands traditionally participate in school band competitions and exhibitions a couple of times throughout the year. These events may fall on the weekends and attendance is mandatory.

Band Camp

Training Band members attend **one day** of a two-day musical camp, which is the highlight of the school year for many.

Band Uniform

Band Members are required to wear full band uniform at special performances such as band competitions. The uniform is available through our uniform shop and is:

- White long-sleeved collared shirt with the school logo.
- Long black pants (no jeans, trackpants or jazz pants), available at the Manly West Uniform Shop
- Blue Manly West Band tie available at the Manly West Uniform Shop
- Black socks and shoes – no bare skin please, all below the waist should be covered in full black.
- Hair neatly tied back. Royal blue hair ribbons (provided to the girls each performance by Penny)

The Band Committee and finding out more

Please contact the Band Coordinator at band@manlywestpandc.org.au or on 0400 401 650