



Thursday 6 October 2022

*Please complete the application form and return it to the school office by **Friday 21 October**.*

## **Instrumental Music: Information regarding the 2023 Year 2 User Pays Strings Program**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now inviting children currently in Year 1 to apply to learn a string instrument (violin, viola or cello) in the **Year 2 User Pays Strings Program** from the start of the 2023 school year.

In Semester 1 2023, there will be 17 positions available: 4 cello, 4 viola, and 9 violin. Students learning these instruments will have one group instrumental lesson per week. In Semester 2, after one semester of continuous tuition, students will commence Year 2 String Ensemble rehearsals in addition to their lesson. The Year 2 strings students will come together before school in the MPC from 8:00am to 8:30am to rehearsal as a string ensemble. The ensemble is called the **Mini Mozarts**. Instrumental lessons are held in the music rooms in the Herons building.

### **Year 2 Strings Program information**

- Students currently in Year 1 are invited to apply to learn violin, viola or cello.
- Lessons will commence in Week 2, Term 1, 2023.
- The duration of this program is for one year only.

### **How does this program work?**

- Instrumental Music lessons are half an hour in duration, occur in small groups (4 to 6 students) and take place **during school hours**, with ensemble rehearsals taking place **before school**. Year 2 string lessons will be timetabled for **the same time each week** to aid students and classroom teachers in establishing the routine of remembering when to leave the classroom for the lesson. Classroom teachers will be consulted in the timetabling process.
- Students learning an instrument **must attend** their weekly scheduled lessons and, commencing in Semester 2, must also attend their ensemble rehearsal. Students will also be required to practise their instrument at home between lessons.
- Students are to be enrolled in the program for a **full year**. 'Short term tuition' does not provide students with enough time to develop skills and habits required for success in their instrumental study. **Commitment to a full year's tuition is an expectation when starting in the program.**
- Students are **not permitted to withdraw from one instrument and change to another**. This policy is in place to ensure balance within the ensembles.
- If a student is absent from a lesson, the lesson will **not be able to be 'made up' or rescheduled**. In the case of the Instrumental Teacher being absent, the student will have the lesson rescheduled.

**In Term 4 of 2023**, all students in Year 2 will be invited to apply for a position in the Strings Program for the 2024 school year. Children in the Year 2 User Pays Strings Program will need to apply for a position in the Department of Education Instrumental Program offered to children from Years 3 to 6. At the end of 2023, all music recruitment results are rank ordered. If there are large numbers of applications for strings positions, this rank ordered list of student results will be used as one of the tools for selection of students for placement in the program offered for students from Year 3. If students participating in the Year 2 Strings Program practice regularly and reach a reasonable level of skill development, their instrumental music study should enhance their music results and potentially give them an improved chance of being placed high in the rank ordered list.

#### Program Costs – Lessons:

- **Group Lessons:** Group lessons will cost \$21 per lesson. There will be 8 lessons charged in each term (\$21.00 per lesson x 8 = \$168.00 per term).
- **Payment for the 8 lessons is made on Thursday in week one of each term.** Lessons are generally scheduled for week 2 to week 9 each term.
- Please note that the Instrumental Levy (Student Resource Scheme) charged to parents whose children are accepted into the program provided by Education Queensland (Years 3-6 Instrumental Music Program) is **NOT** payable for the Year 2 User Pays Strings Program.

#### Program Costs – Instrument/Books/Accessories:

- **Students will need an instrument.** Instruments can be purchased or hired from music retailers. Please see the attached list of suppliers. If your child will be learning a violin or viola, you will need to purchase or hire an instrument from an instrument retailer. If your child will be learning a **cello**, they will be issued with a **school cello for hiring, at the cost of \$70.00 for the year.**
- We recommend you consider insuring instruments.

In addition to the instrument, the following books and accessories will also need to be purchased prior to commencement of lessons (costs are subject to change – please contact a local music retailer for the exact pricing of items).

- **Violin: Essential Elements Tutor Book 1 for violin** (\$19 approx.), **Encore on Strings Music Maestro Book 1 for violin** (\$29.50 approx), **Bernardel Rosin** (\$17 approx), **Shoulder Rest for violin** – you will need to know the size of the instrument before you purchase the shoulder rest (brand Everest retails for \$27.95 for all sizes, brand Kun retails for \$63.50 for ½ to ¾ size), **One display folder.**
- **Viola: Essential Elements Tutor Book 1, for viola** (\$15 approx.), **Encore on Strings Music Maestro Book 1 for viola** (\$29.50 approx), **Bernardel Rosin** (\$17), **Shoulder Rest for viola** – you will need to know the size of the instrument before you purchase the shoulder rest (brand Everest retails for \$27.95 for all sizes, brand Kun retails for \$63.50 for ½ to ¾ size), **One display folder.**
- **Cello: Essential Elements Tutor Book 1 for cello** (\$15 approx.), **Encore on Strings Music Maestro Book 1 for cello** (\$29.50 approx), **Bernardel Rosin** (\$17), **Rock stop** (small item to place on floor to secure the peg of the cello), **One display folder.**

**Please note:** Performance uniforms (worn by Instrumental Program students in the Corelli Strings and the Vivaldi Orchestra) will **not be necessary** for students in the Year 2 User Pays Strings Program.

#### How are students selected?

Data from classroom music lesson tests and feedback from class teachers is considered, along with physical aptitude tests (with instruments). All music results are rank ordered. If there are large numbers of applications, this rank ordered list of student results will be used as a tool for selection of students for placement in the user pays program.

Subsequent to this process, offers of placements in the program will be made. **Please do not purchase any instrument before receiving confirmation of a placement in the program.**

If you would like to apply for a position for your child to commence lessons in the Year 2 User Pays String Program in 2023, **please complete the application form and return it to the school office by Friday 21 October.** If you would like to complete an application online, please email your application to [instrumental\\_music@belmontss.eq.edu.au](mailto:instrumental_music@belmontss.eq.edu.au) by Friday 21 October.

Yours in Music,

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School Music Coordinator (Instrumental and Classroom)

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