Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

This Instrumental Music Booklet includes details of the numerous music opportunities offered at Mount Ridley College as part of a comprehensive P-12 program. Information provided includes details about our Instrumental/Vocal Program and the College’s Performance Ensembles.

Mount Ridley P-12 College offers tuition in a wide range of instruments and styles, from classical to jazz and contemporary and a variety of opportunities for students to perform in an ensemble setting. At Mount Ridley P-12 College tuition is available in the following instruments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Guitar</th>
<th>Voice</th>
<th>Flute</th>
<th>Saxophone</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bass Guitar</td>
<td>Keyboard/Piano</td>
<td>Clarinet</td>
<td>Drum Kit</td>
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</table>

**Our aim is to:**

- Develop a strong technical foundation in an instrument.
- Provide all students the opportunity to learn a musical instrument.
- Provide strong motivation for children to continue to engage in music activities throughout their schooling.
- Provide opportunities for performance and to broaden stagecraft skills.
- Develop an awareness and appreciation of musical styles and genres.
- Encourage students to strive for excellence.
- Contribute to the culture of the College and the local community.
- Develop ensemble skills through co-operative learning, social interaction and performances.

**Why learn an instrument?**

- Recent research suggests students who play an instrument achieve higher results in other subjects.
- Playing an instrument is fun.
- Learning an instrument teaches discipline and independent learning.
- Playing music gives students a sense of achievement and can build self-confidence.
- Making music boosts brainpower, helps develop the nervous system, builds team skills and allows self-expression.
- Students develop organisational skills by remembering their lesson times, equipment, rehearsals and practice schedules.

**Why learn at school?**

- A range of instruments are offered, each with a specialised and fully qualified teacher.
- Ensemble participation is encouraged.
- Lessons are scheduled during the school day.
- At least one performance opportunity is provided for every student.
- Performance assessment opportunities.
- Cost of lessons substantially subsidised by the College.
Performances and Ensembles

- The Performing Arts Specialist Area offers a range of opportunities throughout the year for soloists and ensembles to perform within the College and the wider community. In this case, students are given two weeks’ notice for an external performance or one week’s notice for an internal performance. Parents are encouraged to attend these events where possible.
- Performances can occur during College time or on evenings and weekends. Participation at these events is an expectation of each member of the particular ensemble.
- The Performing Arts Department incorporates a number of musical ensembles into its program. These ensembles are open to any student; with a willingness to learn and a desire to participate enthusiastically in the program.
- Entry to the ensembles is by audition and reference statement; once accepted students will need to sign a permission note/contract. A condition of involvement is the expectation that the student is available to perform in public when the occasion demands.

Mount Ridley College offers a range of ensembles depending on student participation including:

- Drumline
- Glee Club
- Choir
- Senior Rock Band
- Middles School Rock Band
- Guitar Ensemble
- Concert Band
- Chamber ensembles
- Jazz Bands

Instrumental Music Teachers (IMT’s)

Our experienced and professional teachers are themselves professional performing musicians in Melbourne and around Australia. They offer much expertise and inspiration to our students. Our teaching staff are:

- **Stephanie French:** (Performing Arts Specialist Area Leader) Flute and Ensembles Conductor
- **Rohan Stevenson:** Guitar, Bass Guitar, Keyboard and Ensembles Conductor
- **Monique Zucco:** Drum Kit, Keyboard, Voice and Ensembles Conductor
- **Brynley Smyth:** Guitar, Bass Guitar, Piano and Drums

Facilities

- **Junior School:** Incorporates a Performing Arts Room, an Instrumental Music Room and an Outside Stage.
- **Middle School:** The Performing Arts Specialist Area is housed in the Performing Arts Centre which includes One Music Classroom, One Drama/Dance Theatre Room, a Performing Arts Office, three Instrumental Music Teaching Rooms in which one incorporates an ensemble rehearsal space and an outdoor stage. If students use their own equipment they can store their equipment either in one of the music storerooms or the Performing Arts Office at 8:30am and pick it up at 3:20pm on the day of their lesson.
- In the Senior School the Performing Arts Specialist Area makes use of the Mac Suite for music technology subjects such as Year 9 Music Tech and VET Music: Technical Productions, we also use the DICE Dance and Drama theatrette for senior dance and drama subjects.
Lesson Logistics
Lessons occur weekly for 30 minutes and are predominantly given in groups of two. Each instrumental music teacher prepares a timetable for students to attend lessons on a withdrawal basis from their regular classes. Each week, the lesson time alters so that students do not miss the same class more than a few times each term. It is the responsibility of the student to find out what class work has been missed and to catch up with any homework and tests. Timetables are posted outside the Performing Arts Centre for Middle/Senior students. Middle/Senior students will also receive a hardcopy of their timetable and write their personal timetable in their music diary. A hard copy is given to the Junior School students as well as their timetables being written in their music diary. Please ensure that we always have your current email address. Occasionally due to rehearsals or set-up for performances, students may need to have an additional group lesson and this will be decided at the discretion of their instrumental teacher and the Performing Arts Specialist Area Leader.

Enrolment
As a contract is entered into upon enrolment in the Instrumental Music program, the fulfilment of that contract is considered when accepting or rejecting a re-enrolment. Students are offered a place only after making full payment to the Main Administration Office. Students cannot begin or resume lessons until payment of the music charge is made, or alternative arrangements are made with the College's Business Manager. Once enrolled, students complete a full semester of tuition.

Discontinuing Lessons
Occasionally a student loses interest in learning their instrument. These are usually momentary lapses of enjoyment and, with the right encouragement, a student can often persevere through these times. If you are concerned, contact the Instrumental Music Teacher to talk over how best to support your child.

After discussion with the Instrumental Music Teacher, should you still wish lessons to be discontinued, an email or written notification must be sent to the Performing Arts Specialist Area Leader (french.stephanie.h@edumail.vic.gov.au) by the following times:
- For not continuing into Term 2, by Week 8 of Term 1.
- For not continuing into Term 3, by Week 9 of Term 2.
- For not continuing into Term 4, by Week 9 of Term 3.

Missed Lessons
It is difficult to reschedule lessons due to illness of a student or teacher, excursions, industrial action or public holidays. In the event that a teacher is away due to other reasons, one week’s notice will be given that lessons will be re-scheduled to another day in that week. The student is to attend their lesson on the re-scheduled day. If a lesson is missed without parent notification, their Instrumental Music Teacher will inform the parent/guardian.

Equipment
It is assumed that all students will have access to a well-maintained instrument at home as this is essential for practice and progress. If this is not the case, please refer to the Instrumental Hire section in this booklet.

Included in the instrumental tuition fee is a Mount Ridley P-12 College Instrumental Music Diary, which should form the basis for lessons, practice method and communication between the Instrumental Music Teacher, student and parent/guardian. It is expected that students bring their instrument, music diary and music to every lesson.
It is also recommended that all students have their own metronome, tuner and music stand for use during practice. Other equipment required for each instrument will be itemised by the relevant Instrumental Music Teacher.

**Instrumental Hire**
MRC Instrumental Hire is available for acoustic guitars, electric bass, drums (practice pad + stand) saxophones, clarinets and flutes. When equipment is collected it will be signed out and must be returned at the end of the year, or at the end of the term/semester if lessons will be discontinued. It is assumed that hired instruments will be looked after and respected whilst in the care of students. Damaged instruments will result in the College retaining the bond. You may hire keyboards through an external source for example: http://www.musicorp.com.au/keyboards/.

**Helpful Lesson Hints**
- The night before a lesson, students should place their instrument, music and MRC Instrumental Music Diary alongside their school bag.
- Middle/Senior students should check their lesson time before school at the Performing Arts Centre on their lesson day.
- Students, remember to write your lesson time in your diary, set an alarm on your watch, and tell your teacher and a friend to remind you of your lesson.

**Developing a good practice regime**
Each instrumental music lesson will provide you with music reading skills, specific techniques for your instrument, practice skills, aural skills and skills in musical interpretation. It is very important for students to develop a daily practice routine in order to make progress. Parents are encouraged to support their children by providing a quiet regular practice space and by encouraging them to establish a regular practice routine. A rough guide is 15-20 minutes a day for young or beginning students and up to an hour a day for more advanced students.

**Contact Us: Performing Arts Specialist Area**
Ms Stephanie French
Performing Arts Specialist Area Leader
8338 3600
Email: french.stephanie.h@edumail.vic.gov.au