



Exam Class and Theory Class Handbook

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Exam Class and Theory Class

A.M.E.B. Exams

- Australian Music Examinations Board (A.M.E.B.) is the organization that delivers independent examination services.
- Exams are available for: Piano, Singing, Strings, Brass, Woodwind and Theory.
- The majority of exams are held at the AMEB studios, 259 Auburn Road, Hawthorn. Should we have a considerable number of students sitting for the same instrument, we may request an examiner come to the School.

Exams are available for:

Piano
Piano for leisure

Violin
Viola
Cello
Double Bass

Flute
Clarinet
Saxophone

Trumpet
Trombone

Exam Class

- An applicant must be accepted by the Instrumental Teacher.
- A unique opportunity for participants to improve motivation and receive positive peer support whilst preparing for individual exams.
- Designed to cover aural tests, general knowledge, and sight-reading elements for the A.M.E.B. exam.
- Performance practice is conducted parallel with preparation taught by the Instrumental Teacher.
- This style of lesson is designed as an introduction to the instrument where all students learn simultaneously on their respective instrument. The lesson is conducted with mostly group teaching and a limited amount of individual student-teacher time.
- Students are required to have established a regular practice routine, independent learning skills and the listed technical standard before preparing for an exam.
- It is important a student be in command of the material presented at exams to make the most of the experience.

Theory Class

- A group class designed to prepare students for A.M.E.B. Music Craft or Theory of Music Exams (Theory Exams).
- A pass in Theory Exams is a pre-requisite for higher level instrumental exams and VCE Music Units 1-4. However, an earlier start is favoured at most schools.
- Knowledge of Theory supports a student's understanding of notation, including intervals, rhythm, pitch and musical language for their instrument.
- Students are expected to complete set theory exercises during and outside class time.

Group Classes

- Classes will take place before school, 8:20 – 8:50am, or after school 3:35 – 4:05.

Cycle 1 26 th Feb – 11 th May	Cycle 2 14 th May – 11 th Aug	Cycle 3 14 th Aug – 17 th Nov
9 weeks	11 weeks	12 weeks

- The maximum number of students per class is 5.
- Make-up classes will not be provided.
- Group classes are based on the equivalent of an ensemble.
- A student is encouraged to advise the Instrumental Teacher when unable to attend a lesson or a parent is to notify the Instrumental Co-ordinator kennedy.alyssa.a@edumail.vic.gov.au as soon as possible.
- Classes will not be replaced for student absence, cancelled classes, School organized events, Industrial Action or public holidays.

Performance Opportunities

The Skill of Performing

- Concerts encourage a student to focus on a goal.
- This experience develops the ability of a student to feel comfortable when performing.
- Highlights the progress of a student from year to year.

Performances

- There will be semi-regular performance opportunities for Exam students throughout the year.
- Students will prepare technical work, studies and pieces to perform.
- Students will be accompanied whenever possible.
- Feedback about student's performances will be passed directly to the Instrumental Teacher.

AMEB Practical (Instrumental) Exam Schedule

There are 5 metropolitan sessions, which means that the exam will most likely be held at the A.M.E.B. Studios, 259 Auburn Road, Hawthorn.

	2018 Session Dates	Application due by
1 st Metropolitan	23 April – 12 May	21 st February
2 nd Metropolitan	21 May – 8 June	14 th March
3 rd Metropolitan	12 June – 27 June	19 th April
4 th Metropolitan	13 August – 9 September	6 th June
5 th Metropolitan	8 October – 18 November	18 th July

There are 2 country sessions, only piano exams are offered for these sessions.

	2018 Session Dates	Application due by
1 st Country	23 July – 11 August	9 th May
2 nd Country	12 November – 8 December	15 th August

- Please discuss with the Instrumental Teacher as early as possible when you have specific preferences for a particular session.
- Please notify the Instrumental Co-ordinator and the Instrumental Teacher if you have plans for overseas travel or any other commitments which will affect your child's preparation for their exam.

Requirements for practical examinations

The following is a general list of requirements for an A.M.E.B. exam. However, each there may be differences between instruments and grade level. Individualized detailed information will be provided by the instrumental teacher.

Technical Work

- Unless specified, all technical work is to be presented from memory.

Studies and Pieces

- List A – Study.
- List B – Early composed work.
- List C – Middle to Late composed work.
- List D – Contemporary composition. (only required for 5th grade and above)

Extra List

- Two works required from 2nd grade onwards.
- Extra List works are not required for Piano for Leisure, Saxophone for Leisure or Singing for Leisure.

Aural Tests, Sight Reading, General Knowledge

- Aural tests and General knowledge all grade levels.
- Sight Reading from first grade onwards, except for Piano for Leisure which has all grades.

What to bring to the class:

Your instrument
All your music
An A4 display book and pencil case

The class will cover:

Performing

- This experience develops the ability of a student to feel comfortable when performing.
- To develop a pattern of routine in preparation and warm up.
- Once the programs are established, more performance opportunities will be provided.

Technical Work

- Performance of technical work.
- Advice on how to memorize.
- Playing material with confidence.

Studies, Pieces and Extra List

- Performing pieces with accuracy of rhythm and dynamics.
- The importance of flow in performance.
- How to mentally overcome and play difficult sections.
- Musical interpretation in relation to General Knowledge.

Aural Tests

- Regular practice and development of concentrated listening skills.
- Understanding of what a students need to listen for.

Sight Reading

- How to glance through music to find technical challenges or points of interest.
- Careful observation of key signatures, time signatures and tempos.
- Development of the 'inner ear', the ability to hear the music as you read without using an instrument.

General Knowledge

- Reading the piano score.
- Understanding and interpretation of the definitions of notes, rests, signs, terms, title of the piece and the key.
- Key changes, forms, the period/style of the composer and typical stylistic features of music from differing musical periods.

Brief description of the difference between Piano and Piano for Leisure exams:

Some years ago, it became evident to the A.M.E.B. that fewer children (and adults) learning piano were enrolling for exams. They took steps to alter that situation and, upon investigation, found that the 'old approach and syllabus' was proving to be irrelevant to teachers and students alike. Realizing that "all roads lead to Rome" (!!) they made an enlightened decision based on feedback from, and consultation with many foremost piano teachers.

The result was a new, vibrant and growing syllabus, which now encompasses many types of music (classical, pop, film, jazz etc.). It is called 'Piano for Leisure'. The very clever & thoughtful arrangements demand the same performance skills as did the previous (purely classical) repertoire, and the demand for technical excellence (the 'new' syllabus) has increased. It is all good, and has added much relevance to the learning and teaching of music in a modern world.

AMEB Theory Exam Schedule

- Written theory exams are available online. Once you purchase a level, the online text lasts for one year or until completed.

Instrumental Music Guidelines

Essex Heights Primary School

General Information

- 1.1 Enrolments are ongoing until the School receives a withdrawal in writing
- 1.2 Please complete a new enrolment form if you want to adjust your current enrolment or start a new instrument/ensemble.
- 1.3 Enrolment forms are the final page in each Handbook
- 1.4 Handbooks can be found on the school website:
<http://www.essexheightsps.vic.edu.au/page/76/Instrumental-Music-Program>
- 1.5 Please hand completed forms to the office or email the Instrumental Co-ordinator -
kennedy.alyssa.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

Missed Lessons

- 2.1 When your child is unable to attend a lesson, in order to receive a make-up lesson you must notify the Instrumental Co-ordinator before 8:30am on the day of the lesson, either by:
 - o Email: kennedy.alyssa.a@edumail.vic.gov.au
 - Text Message: 0418 572 621
- 2.2 Four (4) makeup lessons are permitted each cycle. Not available for large group or Ensembles.
- 2.3 Students are not permitted to request a make-up lesson.
- 2.4 The student is to attend the make-up lesson or it will be forfeited.
- 2.5 When a Teacher is absent, the lesson will automatically be replaced.
- 2.6 Should you be travelling overseas for more than two weeks, please notify the Instrumental Co-ordinator a minimum of 3 weeks before departure. The instrumental teacher will work with the Co-ordinator to see if lessons are to be replaced or another solution found.
- 2.7 The Teacher will provide make-up lessons at the regular scheduled time at the end of the school year unless otherwise negotiated by the Teacher.
- 2.8 Replacement lessons for a student enrolled in a shared or group lesson may be given as an individual lesson which will count as two shared lessons. This will be arranged at the discretion of the Teacher.

Withdrawal from Lessons

- 3.1 After discussion with the Instrumental Teacher, should you wish to withdraw from lessons, written or email notification must be received by; the end of Term 1, for not continuing into Cycle 2 or the end of Term 2, for not continuing into Cycle 3
- 3.2 **When a student discontinues lessons before the end of the year, all make-up lessons due are forfeited.**

Additional outside lessons or when seeking a second opinion

- 4.1 Please gain the Instrumental teacher's approval before proceeding with additional outside lessons or seeking outside advice.
- 4.2 When seeking a second opinion from an outside teacher on your child's abilities, please discuss this with the instrumental teacher who will provide information and advice on who to approach.

Payment Structure

Exam Class

Payment Structure and Schedule.

	Group Class	Payment in full must be received by:
Cycle 1	\$80	End of Term 1 – 29 th March
Cycle 2	\$80	End of Term 2 – 30 th June
Cycle 3	\$80	End of Term 3 – 21 st Sept
Total	\$240	

Accounts

- Charges for lessons and ensemble will be included in the school financial statement.
- This is an additional program outside the school's curriculum and therefore prompt payment of fees is essential in order to maintain the financial management of the program and our commitment to the Instrumental Teachers.
- Lessons will be suspended if payment is not received by the due date.

Example of how it will appear on your Account:

What you enrolled for:	It will appear on your statement like this:
For exam class	Exam Class – Cycle 1
For theory class	Theory Class – Cycle 1

ENROLMENT FOR EXAM CLASS AND THEORY CLASS

Please contact the Instrumental Co-ordinator kennedy.alyssa.a@edumail.vic.gov.au to request approval from the Instrumental Teacher before sending you an enrolment form.