Piano and Keyboard Handbook 2015

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### Piano
- Weekly lesson
- Achievement goals are carefully noted, priorities are listed and learning strategies are suggested at each lesson
- Parents can encourage the learning process and understand the expected achievement between lessons
- The music diary is the communication tool between parents and teacher
- Recommended earliest starting grade is Prep

### Electric Keyboard
- Weekly group lesson
- Keyboard instrument has black and white keys
- Should have at least 36 to 88 keys in size
- Some keyboards are louder when you strike the key with greater force
- Music is written, you play it and you learn songs from your book
- The songs are all different so you learn many things about playing the keyboard
- Practise for at least 10 minutes, 5 times a week so you remember what you have learnt and it is easy to play!
- Enjoy yourself when you practice and never rush
- Recommended earliest starting grade is Prep

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**Type of lesson available for Piano**

**Individual Lesson:** with one Student - 30 minutes
- Standard format for instrumental lessons.
- Repertoire and rate of progress is specifically designed for each student.
- Care and attention is taken to establish sound musical and technical facility on the instrument.
- Preparation towards A.M.E.B. exams can be covered in these lessons. The group Exam Class is a requirement for exam students. This class includes aural tests, general knowledge and sight-reading practice together with performance practice. (See section on Exam Class)
Type of lesson available for Keyboard

The purpose of the group keyboard classes is to introduce children to the initial understandings of their instruments in a supportive environment. In these classes the children learn basic keyboard techniques and the early reading of musical notation as a precursor to beginning formal piano lessons.

Group Lesson 2-3 students
This style of lesson is designed for a student to learn on a keyboard using headphones. The lesson is conducted with limited group teaching time and significant individual student-teacher time.

Group Lesson 4-6 students
This style of lesson is designed for a student to learn on a keyboard using headphones. The lesson is conducted with a mix of group teaching and individual student-teacher time.

Beginner students
- learn how to read music
- learn music in a practical way
- establish a good foundation of music experience
- at this level can play many different pieces

Advanced students
- have been learning keyboard already or another instrument
- are encouraged to learn more
- are motivated to learn more challenging pieces
- strengthen their technique

Lessons
- Lessons are timetabled throughout the School day.
- They are organized, whenever possible, not to clash with Specialist Class lessons.
- In 2015, students will receive 32 weeks tuition over the course of the year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cycle 1</th>
<th>Cycle 2</th>
<th>Cycle 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 weeks</td>
<td>11 weeks</td>
<td>10 weeks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Before students begin to learn an instrument, it needs to be understood this requires a commitment of at least one cycle.
- A student who attends lessons on time and comes fully equipped, benefits most during the total lesson time.
- Prior to a performance, lessons may be grouped with other students in order for small ensembles to rehearse together. These will be arranged at the discretion of the Teacher.
Performances/Concerts

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.
- Two performances are arranged each year, as follows:

Piano and Keyboard Concert No 1 – Term 2
Piano and Keyboard Concert No 2 – Term 4
- Solos
- Students organize the concert, learn stage management and announcing of items.
- A notice is sent to students a few weeks before the concert

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 exams for the same instrument, we may request an examiner come to the School.

Instrumental Exams
- Exams are available for selected piano students.
- An applicant must be approved by the Instrumental Teacher.
- It is a requirement of all students preparing for an exam to enrol in the Exam Class.
- It is expected that students preparing for a Grade 3 or above exam receive weekly 45 minute lessons.
- 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.

Exam Class – compulsory for exam students
- A unique opportunity for participants to improve motivation and receive positive peer support whilst preparing for individual exams.
- Designed to cover additional exam requirements such as aural tests, general knowledge, and sight-reading.
- Performance practice is conducted parallel with preparation taught by the Instrumental Teacher.
- Exam Class is offered to students after approval from the Instrumental Teacher.
Theory Class – optional for exam students

- 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.

Information for Exam Class and Theory Class

- Classes commence the week beginning 23rd February and end 13th November.
- Classes may be streamed into levels and run before and/or after School.
- The maximum number of students per class is 5.
- Please mark all possible available times on the enrolment form found in the Exam Class Handbook or Theory Class Handbook.
- Make-up classes will not be provided.
- Written consent from a parent needs to be received to change to a different class time.

Purchase of Instrument

Piano Students

- A piano, either acoustic or digital, is the ideal instrument on which to progress
- If the above is not practical initially, then a touch-sensitive keyboard will suffice for the first year of learning.
- The names and details of recommended piano stores can be obtained from the teacher.
- The teacher can recommend a suitable keyboard model for you to purchase at an affordable price.

Keyboard Students

- The purchase of a keyboard is highly recommended for each student.
- Keyboards range in cost and quality -
  - $300+ good quality,
  - $100-300 reasonable quality.
- Available at most music shops.
- Avoid buying a keyboard from a supermarket or toy shop.

What you need

Music Record Book

- Each student is required to use the Music Record Book supplied by the School at the first lesson.
- Replacement books can be requested from the Instrumental Teacher and will be charged on your School statement.
- When a student fails to bring their Music Record Book to 4 consecutive lessons, a new book will automatically be provided and charged on the School statement.
Music Book
- When a music tutor book is required, the Teacher will advise the name and price of the book and music shops where it is available.
- A display book with plastic inserts to hold pieces of music additional to the music in the tuition books.

Music Bag
- An Essex Heights music bag is highly recommended to keep music books, scrapbook, ensemble folder and the Music Record Book together. They are available from the School uniform shop.
- The student's name should be written on the bag.

Practice
- A student should be encouraged by parents to establish a regular practice routine
- A beginning student can manage 10 minutes per session
- A student should aim to practise between 5 to 7 days a week
- Practice should be in a room with:
  - limited distractions
  - Preferably not in a totally isolated environment

Missed Lessons
- When your child is unable to attend a lesson, you should notify the Instrumental Co-ordinator kennedy.alyssa.a@edumail.vic.gov.au prior to the lesson.
- Two (2) makeup lessons are permitted each term.
- A make-up lesson will only be granted under extenuating circumstances such as:
  - Illness – only when notification is received before 9am,
  - School Organized Events,
  - Industrial Action,
  - Public Holidays.
- Students are not permitted to request a make-up lesson.
- The student is to attend the make-up lesson or it will be forfeited.
- When a Teacher is absent, the lesson will be replaced.
- Should you be travelling overseas for more than two weeks, please notify the Instrumental Co-ordinator a minimum of 3 weeks before departure, in order to negotiate a possible change to your school statement charges.
- 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.
- Replacement lessons for a student enrolled in a shared 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.

Helpful Hints
- A student should enquire at the Music Office when a Teacher cannot be located.
- The night before a lesson, a student should place the instrument, music and Music Record Book alongside the school bag.
- A student may wear a watch or bring an alarm clock as a reminder to go to a lesson.
Withdrawal from Lessons

- Occasionally a student loses interest in learning their instrument. These may be momentary lapses of enjoyment and with the right encouragement a student can persevere through these times. If you are concerned, contact the Instrumental Teacher to talk over how best to support your child.
- The Instrumental Co-ordinator may be contacted via email – kennedy.alyssa.a@edumail.vic.gov.au
- After discussion with the Instrumental Teacher, should you wish to withdraw from lessons, written or email notification must be received by:
  - end of Term 1, for not continuing into Cycle 2
  - end of Term 2, for not continuing into Cycle 3
- When a student discontinues lessons all make-up lessons due are forfeited.
Payment Structure

Piano & Keyboard

Payment Structure and Schedule.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Piano</th>
<th>Individual 45 Lesson (AMEB Grade 3 or above)</th>
<th>Individual Lesson</th>
<th>Payment in full must be received by:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cycle 1</td>
<td>$660</td>
<td>$440</td>
<td>27th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycle 2</td>
<td>$660</td>
<td>$440</td>
<td>26th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycle 3</td>
<td>$600</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>18th September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$1920</td>
<td>$1280</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Keyboard</th>
<th>2-3 Group</th>
<th>4-6 Group</th>
<th>Payment in full must be received by:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cycle 1</td>
<td>$299</td>
<td>$210</td>
<td>27th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycle 2</td>
<td>$299</td>
<td>$210</td>
<td>26th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycle 3</td>
<td>$272</td>
<td>$192</td>
<td>18th September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$870</td>
<td>$612</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual lesson</th>
<th>1st Instrument Individual lesson 2015 – Cycle 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group lesson</td>
<td>1st Instrument Keyboard Group 2-3 2015 – Cycle 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ENROLMENT FOR PIANO AND KEYBOARD LESSONS

Student Name

Class

Enrolment  [ ] New  [ ] Continuing

[ ] Student has learnt this instrument elsewhere for ________ years.

1st Preference
If you plan on learning a second instrument, complete a separate form

[ ] Piano, Individual lesson

[ ] I have a piano at home  [ ] I have a keyboard at home

Assess student for suitability for an A.M.E.B. exam and forward Exam Class Handbook

Keyboard: Size of group, 2-3, 4-6

1st preference:  

2nd preference:  

2nd Preference (optional)
If you plan on learning a second instrument, complete a separate form

[ ] Piano, Individual lesson

Assess student for suitability for an A.M.E.B. exam and forward Exam Class Handbook

Keyboard: Size of group, 2-3, 4-6

1st preference:  

2nd preference:  

Parent/Guardian Authorization

I agree with the conditions set out in the Piano/Keyboard Handbook.

I have discussed the conditions with my child and the responsibilities are understood. The enrolment is ongoing until the School receives a withdrawal in writing or my child leaves the school.

Signature

[ ] I agree  [ ] I do not agree

I agree to my contact details being available to the Instrumental Teacher.

Name: [Please print] ____________________________  ____________________________  Mother / Father / Guardian

Phone: ____________________________  Mobile: ____________________________

Email: ____________________________

[ ] I agree  [ ] I do not agree

to my child's image being used in promotional material for the music program and in the PowerPoint presentation at Showcase.

Office use: Received: / /  App. Number:  MM: