

## **Bentleigh Secondary College**

### **Instrumental and Classroom Music Submission**

**4 February, 2013**

- Bentleigh SC offers a comprehensive instrumental and classroom music curriculum with a range of concert bands, jazz bands, rock bands, choir and small ensembles. The current offering is designed for a systemic development of students' music skills and gives students a systemic progression from beginner to advanced level.
- Every year 7 student at school is given an option to participate in the instrumental music program and is invited to the recruitment night, which takes place in the first weeks of the year. At this time students choose an instrument and enrol in the instrumental music program. The school provides students with a hire of the instrument at a discounted rate for one year, after which, should they wish to participate in the program, they purchase an instrument. More expensive instruments (e.g. French horn, Tuba, bassoon) are hired to students for duration of their studies and students are not expected to purchase them.
- Currently there are 184 students elected into the Instrumental Music Program at Bentleigh SC, which represents around 20% of total school population. This percentage makes it one of the highest in participation across the region.
- Every student in the Instrumental Music Program is expected to participate in the core concert band or choir (Year 7 Band, Intermediate Concert Band, Symphonic Wind Band). They may also elect to participate in contemporary ensemble (Jazz Bands, Rock Bands or Improvisation Group).
- The music department organises range of activities for students each year that are targeted at developing their music and interpersonal skills. These activities include overnight rehearsal camps, music incursions, band tours and music festivals.
- The school actively promotes music education across the region and beyond by engaging in cluster tours to local primary and secondary schools, Victorian and interstate tours. In the last 5 years the department has also organised 2 international tours to New Zealand and USA.
- Instrumental music curriculum is delivered by range of specialist instrumental music teachers. Currently there are 3.1 EFT teachers employed at BSC. Each student receives either a group (in year 7-8) or an individual 30-45 min lesson (year 9-12) per week as well as band/choir practice before and after school.

- The funding structure consists amounts to regionally distributed funds (accounting for 1.6 EFT) and school's financial contribution (accounting for 1.5 EFT)
- There is a significant level of financial support from the school and parents for the music program. "Friends of Music" parent group has been actively promoting and raising funds in the community to help with purchase of instruments and provide extra funds for tours and music activities.
- Bentleigh SC has a dedicated Performing Arts complex opened in 2007 that features
  - 2 large rehearsal spaces
  - Storage room
  - Multiple instrumental teaching rooms
  - Complete range of orchestral concert percussion
  - Music staff room
  - Music classroom
  - Computer lab
- Bentleigh SC encourages instrumental music students to participate in regional music organised events, including:
  - Senior Band Fest
  - Junior Bandfest (hosted between 2007-2011)
  - Battle of the Bands 2011
  - Intermediate Band Fest (hosted in 2010)
- Staff from Bentleigh SC are encouraged to attend regional and statewide professional development activities.
- Staff from Bentleigh have presented at instrumental professional development activities.
- Each year the Drama and Music departments collaboratively present musical productions that involve some 150 students on stage, band and supporting roles.
- Current model of instrumental/classroom music program has provided students with an additional pathway into further studies. Each year the school offers Year 11-12 VCE music subjects that have healthy enrolments. Currently 15 students are undertaking further music education in tertiary institutions. There are 8 former students who are currently teaching music in the State system.

- Instrumental music caters for all levels and abilities in the school. Through the band participation, students are encouraged work collaboratively with each other and develop interpersonal skills. There is also a great level of cross year level collaboration and communication.
- By adhering to stringent practice regime, students also develop great organisational skills and are able to self analyse their own progress and development.
- Instrumental music also offers students way to increase their confidence and instil pride in their achievements.
- Classroom music at BSC is offered from year 7-12. Year 7 is core for one semester and Year 8 -10 elective. There are 13 VCE students undertaking Music Performance Unit 1-4.
- There are plans to introduce Music Industry Skills in Year 10 to create another pathway for students wishing to study recording, business and other aspects music.
- Year 7s – 2 periods a week; Year 8s – 3 periods a week; Year 9 – 3 periods a week; Year 10s – 4 periods a week; VCEs – 5 periods a week (48 minute periods).

The current funding arrangements for music education in Victorian schools are inadequate. The college is in staffing deficit, however we recognise that the Instrumental Music Program is invaluable for our students and hence we find the funding to pay our music teachers.

There has been a lot of research into the benefits of music education in schools for students. I commend the members of the Victorian Parliament's Education and Training Committee for reviewing the potential of music education in Victorian schools and hope that they support the great work that is happening in schools in this area.