



THS BAND PROGRAM



WEEKLY NOTES: Term 4, Week 10, 5th
December

TUESDAY	FRIDAY
NO REHEARSALS	NO REHEARSALS

Events Calendar

New events or changes in details in **BOLD and highlighted**

DATE	EVENT
	2022 Calendar
Tuesday 8 th February	BSG Meeting, 7pm. (<i>Whether this is online or in person is TBC</i>)
Friday 4 th , Saturday 5 th , Sunday 6 th March	Band Camp – to be held at school. Go home each night to sleep.
Term 3, Week 2	Regional Band Tour – “Dark Skies V2”

Email your band manager/s (addresses on last page of these Band Notes), if you have a band-related question or problem that needs solving.

Band notes are also available on the school’s website in the band section:

<https://turramurra-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/supporting-our-students/band.html>



**Dear Year 12,
congratulations on your
graduation from THS. Thank you
for your dedication to the Band
program. We wish you all the best
for your future.**

A Message from Jeff

The band program has endured a tough year with significant success, including:

- Outstanding performances earlier in the year;
- Great feedback from our local community in appreciation of the SB2 performance for a Rotary Ceremony;
- Excellent results (via recording) in the Sydney Eisteddfod;
- The planning of a Regional Tour with strong student interest;
- A very successful and popular Band Camp;
- Solo night (online) featuring 19 soloists;
- Maintaining our bands at the highest standard of repertoire within high school bands;
- Serving a committed and resilient group of students in the online environment.

Congratulations to: Sophie Fletcher, Lena Morris, Simon Aubourg, Niles Nandanathan (captains); Savannah Michie, Eliza Langer, Olivia Diamant, Conor Cahill, Rohan Sivanathan, Elliot Leahy. This group of outstanding Year 12 students have demonstrated their commitment throughout the year, and, for several of them, continuing over recent weeks up to, during and after their HSC exam period. I thank them for their senior role in the band program, both as players and leaders/role models. I encourage them to continue to play and enjoy music throughout their lives, whether by further developing their skills, or by maintaining the substantial ability that they have already developed, and to benefit from the many ways in which music will continue to enrich them and others around them.

I continue to be impressed by the culture, resilience, strength, results, performance, and importance of the band program at THS. Congratulations on what you've achieved this year.

Have a wonderful holiday break, make the most of the benefits of your musical ability for yourself and for others, and I'll see and hear you all in 2022!!

Borrowed instruments

Instruments on hire from the THS Band Program are due to be serviced, as per the instructions in the Instrument Hire Agreement under the heading **At the End of the Year**. Please ensure you make a timely booking for this to occur.

Rehearsal news

There are no band rehearsals this week however, with recent changes to the instructions coming from the Dept of Education, something may be possible in week 11...



The date for the first rehearsals of 2022 will be advised once we have full instructions from the Dept of Education and Mr Arblaster.

Early rehearsals in 2022 will provide the opportunity to play the music learnt during lockdown, as entire bands and a performance for the whole school, friends and family, will be arranged as soon we're allowed to. *Regional Tour Group, this includes you so dig out your scores and brush up over the holidays 😊*

Remember to use the QR code on the following page to let us know that you are returning for the 2022 Band Program.

Turrumurra High School

Instrumental and Vocal ensembles 2022

Turrumurra High School has an extensive and highly successful co-curricular Music program that has enriched the lives of hundreds of students across several decades. In 2022 we will continue to offer students high-calibre performance opportunities across Concert Bands, Stage Bands and Jazz improvisation classes. We will also consider smaller chamber groups such as guitar ensembles, string groups and percussion groups if demand is there. Our brand new Vocal ensemble already has 30 members.

After two years of interrupted performance schedules we are truly looking to innovate and offer fresh opportunities to all students with a passion for Music. All students will be invited to audition in the opening weeks of the new year and weekly rehearsals will be conducted either before school (7:30-8:30 am) or when school finishes in the afternoon. In the past, we have excelled in Eisteddfods, competitions and festivals on local and international stages and we hope to do so again. Providing music for our own community is also a central goal for 2022.

Our Band Camp is the first weekend in March and will connect our musicians with professional tutors to build in skills and confidence. Added opportunities to work in recording studios and with industry professionals are also being considered. What is vital is that you register your interest now so that we can design vibrant new events that best suit our community.

Our Co-curricular music program cannot survive without the loyal support of parent/carer volunteers. Our Band Support Group (BSG) is looking for new members. Please contact the BSG convenor (Jane Barnwell, bsgconvenor@ths.community) if you are interested in providing support. We have roles of all levels of commitment just waiting to be filled!

How do I register my interest?
If you are interested in playing music or singing in 2022
scan the QR code to register!



Auditions 2022

The aim of THS band auditions is to make sure everyone is placed into the band that best fits their capability, on their instrument/s. It is a time to showcase what you can do and an opportunity for the band conductor to hear you play on your own, rather than being covered by the rest of the band. Together these make audition days one of the band conductor's favourite musical days of the year.

The audition atmosphere is relaxed, with the best interest of each student at heart. Yes, there are requirements (outlined below) for auditioning but try not to stress too much about them – they are meant to be a guide to enable your preparation and to take away any fear of the unknown. No-one who auditions misses out on a place in the band program.

Everyone in the band program should prepare for an audition, even if only for your own musical development.

Who will **need** to audition?

- 1) All who want to be in Stage Band
- 2) Anyone wanting to be considered for a higher-level Concert band

Who is **unlikely** to be required to audition?

- 1) Anyone happy to stay in their 2021 Concert band

The dates for the 2022 auditions are yet to be decided.

It is likely that they will be held in E4.

Information gathered from the EOI, via the QR code, will be used to make contact regarding details for the 2022 band program, including auditions.

PLEASE make sure you register your interest in the 2022 Band Program NOW.

Audition Requirements include:

1. Scales
 - a. Please prepare 1 major, 1 harmonic minor, 1 melodic minor and 1 chromatic scale.
 - b. Students wishing to be included in CB1 should play all scales over 2 octaves in quavers at $J= 140$.
 - c. Scales must be played by memory for everyone auditioning.
 - d. Students wishing to be included in CB1 should prepare at least TWO of their scales over 2 octaves.
2. Pieces
 - a. Please prepare 2 pieces that are appropriate to your current grade level. These are NOT to be pieces from band.
3. Sight reading will be given to you on the day.
4. A photocopy of the sheet music for your pieces (not scales) MUST be brought into the audition with you and given to the Band Director. For guitar and bass guitar, tablature will not be appropriate. Even if you plan on performing by memory, still bring music in so he can see what you're playing.

Audition Tips

Scales

- When you are preparing scales, please practice them thoroughly and regularly with high repetition. Scales are very easy to learn, but if you only play them once or twice per practice you will struggle to remember them. The best way to practice 4 scales (considering your time frame) would be to play each scale once every day. Then for week 1 focus on 1 scale and play it 10 times in a row correctly with the music before you move on. Do this 3 times during your practice separated by other things. Choose a scale to be your focus scale for each week but remember to keep playing all scales each day to keep them fresh.
- Use sheet music when practicing scales until you're absolutely sure that you are playing them correctly at every repetition. Don't 'feel' your way through the scale by memory to learn them.
- Use a metronome in your preparation. Start learning your scales slowly, then once you know them thoroughly and correctly, start to increase the speed.

Pieces

- For your pieces it is very important that you choose things you can play really well. Don't choose something way too hard for you in order to impress, then not be able to play it. On the other hand if you choose something that is very easy it might not qualify you for entry into the upper bands.

Sight Reading

- Sight reading can be practiced. There are wonderful books available with playable compositions appropriate for all instruments. Not only are these great to play, but excellent for sight reading practice. Please consult your teacher and if you don't have one already, buy one immediately and start working on it (you can order online, www.jwpepper.com is excellent but in order to receive music quickly you need to choose the most expensive shipping method. Sometimes this choice isn't made available so leave a comment with your order).

Holidays!

- You may like to take a break from playing during the holidays however while it is sometimes good to have a break in order to come back refreshed, the flip side is that you lose a substantial amount of quality in your playing when you don't practice for even a few days. If you're going on holidays and can't/won't take your instrument, there are still ways that you can practice. For example, take your music with you and work through your pieces and scales in your mind - this means think through the process of playing, using fingers to pretend to play as you internally sing/think through the pieces/scales.