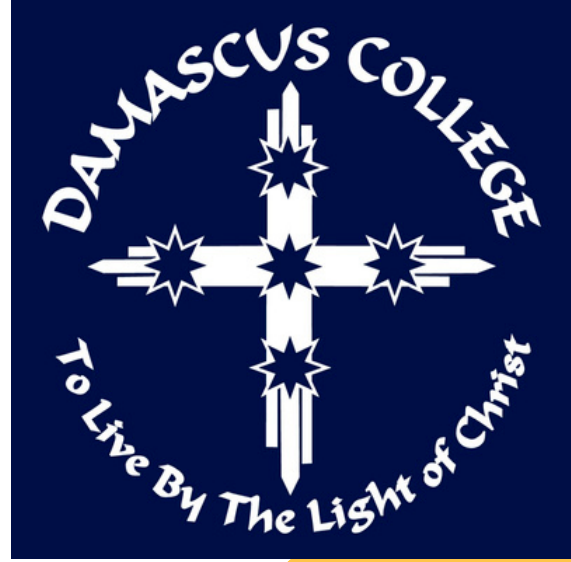


Damascus College



Instrumental Program

Instrumental Tuition



Instrumental tuition is available for a wide range of musical instruments through the Damascus College Instrumental Music Program. Private lessons are provided by visiting instrumental specialist tutors on a weekly rotational basis during the school day. Any student at the college can take advantage of this program depending on available instrumental tutors and enrolment numbers for the year. **The instrumental program is in addition to music undertaken as a curriculum subject.**

To further develop their skills, students who enrol in the program are encouraged to participate in a concert band and/or ensemble that suits their level of learning. Held before or after school once a week or during a lunchtime, these rehearsals are an essential component of the program, as they provide students with group performance opportunities and ensemble skills. The ensembles planned for the year ahead are: Concert Band, Choir, Senior Singers, String Ensemble, Guitar Ensemble and the development of smaller rock and stage based bands.



Benefits of Learning an Instrument



Educational and Cognitive Benefits

- Playing an instrument develops and strengthens neurological pathways, enhancing memory, attention, and problem-solving.
- Students engaged in music education consistently outperform peers in literacy and numeracy.
- Regular music participation can raise IQ scores by up to 7 points.

Wellbeing and Social Development

- Group music-making fosters teamwork, empathy, and resilience, strengthening social connectedness.
- Music boosts self-esteem and motivation through goal-setting and performance achievement.
- Active participation provides an outlet for stress reduction and emotional regulation.



Australian students who learn a musical instrument achieve results equivalent to an extra year of schooling in literacy and numeracy compared to their peers.

Instruments



Cello – The cello (its full name is the violoncello) is much larger than the violin, so the musician sits down to play it. The cello often plays supportive bass notes, but can also be showcased with higher tenor notes. The cello is usually associated with classical music, but there are many examples of cello in contemporary music and styles.



Violin – The violin is the highest pitched instrument in the string family. It usually plays the melody of a piece. Players can stand or sit, with the violin resting on the player's shoulder, resting their chin on top. Violins are often associated with classical music, but there are many modern musicians who use the violin in their contemporary pieces.



Viola – The viola is a string instrument that is bowed, plucked, or played with varying techniques. It is slightly larger than a violin and it has a lower and deeper sound. It is the alto voice of the violin family, pitched a perfect fifth below the violin and an octave above the cello.



Clarinet – The clarinet produces a fluid sound, with a range of nearly four octaves. The musician blows air between a reed and the mouthpiece. Clarinets are commonly used in almost every type of music from classical to chamber, to jazz.



Flute – The flute is the highest sounding of the standard orchestra woodwind instruments (it was originally made from wood). Air is played across a hole in the mouthpiece to make sound, and the flute often plays the melody of a piece of music.



Trombone – The trombone has a more mellow sound than the trumpet. The player uses a slide to make different notes. The trombone is used in many types of music, including jazz, classical music, traditional orchestral pieces and modern pop music.



Trumpet – The trumpet makes the highest sounds of the brass instruments. It has bright, clear sounds, with three valves to change pitches as musicians play. The trumpet is often associated with jazz music, but throughout history it has been used to send messages, herald royalty and in military fields.



Alto Saxophone – The alto saxophone is a member of the saxophone family of woodwind instruments. It is the most common type of saxophone and is used in many types of music including popular contemporary, concert bands and jazz.

Instruments



Piano – The piano is one of the most widely played instruments and has the largest range of notes of any instrument. Students can learn melody, harmony and rhythm all at once, making it an excellent foundation for music education. The piano is used in almost every style of music, from classical concertos and solo works to popular, jazz and contemporary styles.



Voice/Singing – The voice is a natural instrument that everyone can use, and it is unique to each individual. Learning to sing develops musical skills such as pitch, tone and breathing, as well as confidence and expression. Singing is used in many contexts, from choirs and classical performances to pop, jazz and musical theatre.



Guitar – The guitar can be played in many different ways, including strumming chords, plucking melodies and providing rhythmic accompaniment. It is one of the most popular instruments worldwide, often used in classical, folk, rock, pop and jazz music. Students who learn guitar can perform solo, accompany singers, or play as part of an ensemble or band.



Drumkit – The drumkit provides the beat and rhythm that drive a group of musicians and hold the music together. It is made up of several drums and cymbals, played together to create a wide variety of sounds. Drumkits are central to many styles of music, including rock, jazz, pop and contemporary genres, and are important for developing timing and coordination.



Bass Guitar – The bass guitar plays the lowest notes in a band and connects the rhythm of the drums with the harmony of other instruments. It usually has four strings and provides a steady foundation that supports the group's overall sound. The bass guitar is essential in many styles, including rock, pop, funk and jazz, where it adds depth and groove.



Double Bass – The double bass is the largest member of the string family and produces deep, resonant sounds. It is played either by plucking or with a bow, and provides the bass line that underpins the music. The double bass is an important part of orchestras, jazz groups and contemporary ensembles, and is highly valued for its versatility across different styles.

“What I enjoy most about learning an instrument is seeing how I develop as a person the more I improve.” :::



- Instrumental lessons are provided by private instrumental tutors. Lesson costs have been determined in accordance with the Victorian Music Teacher Association rates. Individual lessons are offered for all instruments at a rate of \$45 per 30 minutes. It is expected that a tutor will deliver 8 lessons per term. Therefore, the cost will be \$360 for Individual lessons per Term.
- Instrumental Music Lessons are in addition to Damascus College School fees and are billed separately to school fee accounts. Families are required to pay the full balance (at the office) in advance for lessons prior to the beginning of the Term.
- The College has a limited number of instruments available for students to use and hire. Where more students wish to use College instruments than are available, hire and use of an instrument can be made via our Fine Music portal: <https://finemusiconline.com.au/schools/damascuscollege>
- Guitarists, drummers and pianists will use a College instrument on the day of their lesson. Students require a suitable instrument to practice on at home. Teachers expect a regular regime of practice and as such students need regular and easy access to their own instrument.
- If you need assistance with the purchase of a new or second-hand instrument please contact Miss Isabella Harper



Questions



If you have any further questions regarding the Instrumental Program please do not hesitate to contact the Music Department at music@damascus.vic.edu.au or call the school directly on 5337 2222.

If you would like to register your interest in the program, please complete the form overleaf and return to the school as soon as possible. Once 'Expressions of Interest' forms are collated, students will be given an official 'Letter of Enrolment and Acceptance'.

We look forward to sharing the experience of music with your student at Damascus College



"Ever since I started learning piano my focus and attention to detail has gone way up and helped me improve my work in school and everyday life"



"I enjoy learning an instrument because it is a good activity to strengthen my brain and broaden my skills. It is fun because you are learning from mistakes and you get to hear the progress you make as the songs sound smother and more natural throughout your learning experience."



Instrumental Music Program

Expression of Interest

Student Name: _____

Year Level (2026): _____

I would like to learn the following (please indicate order of preference). Alternatively, if only one instrument is selected and this instrument is already full you will be placed on a waitlist.

☐

Cello

☐

Saxophone

☐

Violin

☐

Piano

☐

Viola

☐

Voice / Singing

☐

Clarinet

☐

Guitar

☐

Flute

☐

Drumkit

☐

Trombone

☐

Bass Guitar

☐

Trumpet

☐

Double Bass

Parent / Guardian Name: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Additional Comments: _____

