

ARTARMON PUBLIC SCHOOL – 2024 STRINGS PROGRAM INFORMATION PACK

Welcome to the Artarmon Public School Strings Program!

Our Objectives:

- That all children enjoy making and learning music
- That all children develop their playing skills

Currently there are approximately 170 children involved in the program and forming one of four ensembles:

- Training Strings– for students with little or no experience
- Junior Strings – for students with previous strings experience
- Concert Strings – for students more advanced than Junior Strings
- Senior Strings – Advanced players

The program is run by the director, Adrian Mansukhani, and is available to students in years 3 to 6 only.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTARMON PUBLIC SCHOOL – 2024 STRINGS PROGRAM INFORMATION PACK	1
1. Registration for the Strings Program.....	2
2. Strings Fees and Associated Costs.....	3
3. Instrument allocation and Hire	6
4. Instrument Tutorials.....	7
5. Strings Rehearsals and Performance Commitments.....	7
6. Withdrawal from the Music Program	8
7. Parental Involvement.....	9
8. Communication	9
9. Strings Contacts for 2024	10

1. REGISTRATION FOR THE STRINGS PROGRAM

We accept applications from students who will be in Years 3 to 6 in 2024, at any skill level from beginner upwards. We are unable to accept students in Years 2 or below, even if they already play an instrument, but look forward to having them when they reach Year 3.

New members of the strings program will need to be registered using our online administration system, **MySchoolMusic**. To register your child please **READ THIS DOCUMENT FIRST** then go to:
<https://portal.msmusic.com.au/artarmonmusic>

- If you already have a child in the music program, please log in to the MySchoolmusic parent portal, click on the **Add Student** button and complete the registration screens.
- Otherwise click on the **New Student Registration** button and complete the registration screens, which includes setting up a password for our music program parent portal.

Key Dates:

- New Student registration and existing Strings student re-enrolment to be submitted **by Wednesday, 22nd November 2023**.
- Instrument try outs for students new to stringed instruments will be held in the week beginning **27th November 2023**. Times to be determined.
- If your child already plays an instrument, we will arrange an audition at school to place your child in an ensemble which best suits their skill and experience. Times to be determined.
- Outcome of the tryout will be communicated within a week beginning **4th December**.
- String Information zoom night will be held on Thursday **7th December**.
- Students who enrol at the school at the start of the new year can register at the start of Term 1, 2024.
- New String registrations for 2024 will close at the end of Term 1.

Opportunity Class (OC) Students:

- For students who have accepted a place in the Year 5 Opportunity Class at Artarmon for 2024, registrations for the Strings Program should be completed by early December 2023 or as soon as an OC placement has been confirmed.
- A copy of the Strings information pack will be given to the OC students during the OC orientation day.
- Audition details will be emailed to parents closer to date and the outcome of the audition will be communicated via email.

Orchestra:

- Students in Senior Strings are welcome to join Orchestra (Strings). Students in other String ensembles can join Orchestra by invitation from Mr Mansukhani only.

2. STRINGS FEES AND ASSOCIATED COSTS

All fees are invoiced by parent volunteer – Strings Treasurer. If you have any questions regarding Strings fees, please contact our Strings Treasurer via email stringstreasurer@gmail.com

Strings fees are used to:

- Pay Strings Director and music tutors,
- Buy new music instruments and maintenance of the existing instruments i.e. repairs, professional cleaning and servicing
- Buy new music scores and copyright licenses,
- Buy music equipment e.g. music stands, music posture chairs, sounds system and music folders
- Buy stationery used in the Music Room and photocopying,
- Entry fees into various festivals and events including travel expenses to and from festivals and competitions and tutors/conductor fees related to the events/competition,
- Insurance

Strings membership can add up to a significant amount over the year. While every effort is made to space it out over the year, some costs are required up front at the beginning of the program.

Semester 1 Fees (invoiced and to be paid in Term 1):

- **String Ensemble Fees** (*all non-refundable*) – Creative Kids Vouchers can be put towards ensemble fees.
 - Training Strings - \$265 per year
 - Junior Strings - \$350 per year (payable after successful audition)
 - Concert Strings - \$350 per year (payable after successful audition)
 - Senior Strings - \$430 per year (payable after successful audition)
 - Orchestra - \$140 per year (payable after successful application)
- **Tutor Fees** (*for tutorials at school*)
 - Training Strings group tutorial (non-refundable) - \$300 per semester (paid into Strings bank account)
 - Private tutorial (students in Junior Strings, Concert Strings and Senior Strings) - \$43 per 30-minute lesson (paid directly to tutor each term – may require GST).
 - Music Books (purchased by student and recommended by tutor) – approx. \$60.
- **Instrument Hire** (*non-refundable*)

String instruments come in varying sizes to suit the size of the student. For example, an 8-year-old student may only require a ¼ size violin or cello whereas a 10- year-old student may require a ½ size violin or cello. String instruments in various sizes are available for hire through the Strings Committee. The cost of hiring an instrument is:

- Violin/Viola: \$190 per year
- Cello: \$210 per year
- Double bass: \$210 per year

- **Uniform** (*required for formal performances, festivals, and competitions*)
 - White pointed collar long sleeved shirt with black formal pants, black socks, and black school shoes; shirts and pants are available from the school uniform shop or may be purchased elsewhere (e.g. Kmart, Lowes, etc. - approx. \$60 for shirt & pants)
 - Music Tie, only available from school uniform shop - \$21.

IMPORTANT: All Semester 1 fees will need to be paid by the end of Term 2. Failure of payment will result in Students not being able to continue in the Music Program in Semester 2.

Semester 2 Fees (invoiced and to be paid in Term 3)

- **Tutor Fees** (*for tutorials at school*)
 - Training Strings group tutorial (non-refundable) - \$300 per semester (paid into Strings bank account)
 - Private tutorial (students in Junior Strings, Concert Strings and Senior Strings) - \$43 per 30-minute lesson (paid directly to tutor each term – may require GST).
- **Music Camp Fee (payable in term 3)** - Applicable to all Strings students in Years 4 to 6 that are in Junior, Concert or Senior Strings – approx. \$230

Example Costings:

Training Strings violin/viola \$265 ensemble fees (if using Creative Kids voucher - \$100, so new total is \$165) \$190 Violin/Viola instrument hire fees \$600 tuition (\$300 per semester x 2 semesters) Total = \$1055 (or \$955 with creative kids voucher)	Training Strings cello/double bass \$265 ensemble fees (if using Creative Kids voucher - \$100, so new total is \$165) \$210 cello/double bass instrument hire fees \$600 tuition (\$300 per semester x 2 semesters) Total = \$1075 (or \$975 with creative kids voucher)
Junior/Concert Strings violin/viola \$350 ensemble fees (if using Creative Kids voucher - \$100, so new total is \$250) \$190 violin/viola instrument hire fees \$1376 tuition (\$43 per lesson x 8 lessons x 4 terms) Total = \$1,916 (or \$1,816 with creative kids voucher) Additional Cost- Music Camp \$230	Junior/Concert Strings cello/double bass \$350 ensemble fees (if using Creative Kids voucher - \$100, so new total is \$250) \$210 cello/double bass instrument hire fees \$1376 tuition (\$43 per lesson x 8 lessons x 4 terms) Total = \$1,936 (or \$1, 836 with creative kids voucher) Additional Cost- Music Camp \$230
Senior Strings violin/viola \$430 ensemble fees (if using Creative Kids voucher - \$100, so new total is \$330) \$190 violin/viola instrument hire fees \$1376 tuition (\$43 per lesson x 8 lessons x 4 terms)	Senior Strings cello/double bass \$430 ensemble fees (if using Creative Kids voucher - \$100, so new total is \$330) \$210 cello/double bass instrument hire fees \$1376 tuition (\$43 per lesson x 8 lessons x 4 terms)

Total = \$1,996 (or \$1,896 with creative kids voucher) Additional Cost- Music Camp \$230	Total = \$2,016 (or \$1,916 with creative kids voucher) Additional Cost- Music Camp \$230
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Important note for students that play more than one instrument or join more than one music ensemble/streams.

- Student will be charged for any additional instruments that they decide to take on.
For example, if a student is currently playing the violin in Concert Strings and he/she is asked to play the Double bass in Orchestra. Both the violin and double bass lessons are taken at school. In that instance the costing for the student will be:

\$490 total ensemble fees (\$350 Concert Strings ensemble fees plus \$140 Orchestra ensemble fees)
\$400 Total instruments hire fees (Violin hire fees \$190 plus Double bass hire fees \$210)
\$1376 violin tuition (\$43 per lesson x 8 lessons x 4 terms)
\$1376 double bass tuition (\$43 per lesson x 8 lessons x 4 terms)
\$230 Music Camp (approx.)
Total = **\$3,872** (or \$3,772 with creative kids' voucher)

- Student will be charged for any additional music ensembles/stream that they have joined.
For example, if a student is in Senior Strings playing the violin and he/she has also decided to join Orchestra playing the Tuba. The student has tuition for the Tuba at school. The violin tutorial is taken externally. In that instance the costing for the student will be:

\$570 total ensemble fees (\$430 Senior Strings ensemble fees plus \$140 Orchestra ensemble fees)
\$420 total Instruments hire fees- (\$190 violin hire fees plus \$230 Tuba hire fees)
\$1376 tuba tuition (\$43 per lesson x 8 lessons x 4 terms)
\$230 Music Camp (approx.)
Total = **\$2,596** (or \$2,496 with creative kids' voucher)

- We will email invoices to parents for Strings fees, instrument hire and group tutorial fees (as applicable) at the start of each semester.
- Prompt payment is appreciated; our treasurer is a parent volunteer (as are all the Strings administrators) and does not wish to chase unpaid invoices!

- If you need assistance and would like to set up a payment plan or discuss any hardship, please do not hesitate to contact the Strings Convenors or the school confidentially and we will support you in the best way possible.

Strings ensembles are involved in the following annual music events:

Events	Costs
Mother's Day Concert	Covered in ensembles fees
Music Intensive Weekend	Covered in ensembles fees
Sydney Eisteddfod	Covered in ensembles fees
Music Camp	Partly covered in ensembles fees
End of Year Concert	Partly covered in ensembles fees
APS Carols Concert	Covered in ensembles fees
Music Tour (TBC)	Partly covered in ensembles fees

3. INSTRUMENT ALLOCATION AND HIRE

All the instrument hire is organised by parent volunteer –Strings Instrument Coordinator. If you have any questions regarding instrument hire and maintenance, please contact our Strings Instrument Coordinator via email APSstringsinstruments@gmail.com

- For students interested in playing a stringed instrument for the first time the Strings Director Mr. Mansukhani will conduct an assessment (tryouts) at school to identify a suitable instrument for your child. We will advise you of your child's instrument allocation by email. Please reply to the email to confirm the acceptance.
- If your child already plays an instrument, we will arrange an audition at school to place your child in an ensemble which best suits their skill and experience.
- Instruments are available for hire from the Strings Committee- this is an inexpensive way to begin learning an instrument. We highly recommend that if you are considering purchasing an instrument you consult with a music professional (e.g., your instrument tutor) before making this investment, as a 'bargain' may be a costly mistake if it is an unsuitable instrument.
- The instrument hire fee will be included in your Strings invoice in Term 1. Instrument hire fees are **non-refundable**.
- Due care of the hired instrument is required, and full responsibility must be taken by the student and their parents/carers. In the event of any damage, please report immediately to your tutor, Mr Mansukhani and email Strings Instrument Coordinator at APSstringsinstruments@gmail.com
- All hire instruments must be returned to school at the end of term 4 (date to be advised) for our annual instrument audit, service check and cleaning. Students that are continuing in the Strings program in the following year may take a hire instrument for practice over the summer holidays (subject to instrument availability) after the instrument audit.

Please refer to **WITHDRAWAL FROM THE MUSIC PROGRAM** section for how to return your hire instrument.

4. INSTRUMENT TUTORIALS

All in-school music lessons are organised by parent volunteer- Tutor Coordinator. The lessons are organised based on the Tutor's availability and School's rules on music lessons. Our Tutor Coordinator will advise you by email of your child's tutorial details. Our Tutor Coordinators can be contacted via email tutorband.atarmonpandc@gmail.com.

Training Strings:

- Students in Training Strings attend a weekly group tutorial/lesson at school in addition to the weekly ensemble rehearsal. The 30-minute lessons are held outside of class time.
- Group tutorial/lesson consist of children who plays the same instrument, up to maximum of four students in one group.
- We do not offer individual tutorial to Year 3 students; all Year 3 students in Training Strings are required to participate in group tutorial/lesson at school for the year.
- Please note: The group tutorial fees cover 8 lessons per term.
- There will be ONE makeup group tutorial per term available to students that missed a lesson due to illness/appointment/excursion, etc. These makeup group tutorials will be held in either Week 9 or 10.

Junior, Concert and Senior Strings:

- All students who participate in the Strings program are expected to take instrument lessons, either at school or externally.
- Students in Year 3 that already play an instrument must continue instrument lessons externally. We do not offer one-on-one (private) lesson to Year 3 students at school.
- The tutorial at school will be weekly one-on-one (private) lesson. The majority of private lessons are held during school hours. To minimise time away from class, students can only have one private lesson during school learning time. In an instance where a student plays two instruments and requires two in-school tutorials, they can only have one private lesson during school learning time. The other instrument tutorial will need to be arranged outside of school hours.

Please refer to **WITHDRAWAL FROM THE MUSIC PROGRAM** on how to discontinue school tutorials.

5. STRINGS REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCE COMMITMENTS

All String members are expected to attend all rehearsals. If you are unable to attend a weekly rehearsal (e.g. due to sickness, appointment etc.) please email your Strings coordinator via email.

If you are unable to attend a music event, please let our Strings Director Mr Mansukhani know at least one month prior – our ensembles perform as teams and are dependent upon the attendance and performance of all students together.

Rehearsal times are as follows:

Ensemble	Time	Location
Trainings Strings	12:50 pm - 1:40pm, Tuesday Lunchtime from Term 2	Music Room
Junior Strings	7:50am - 8:45am, Tuesday	School Hall
Concert Strings	7:50am - 8:45am, Thursday	School Hall
Senior Strings	3pm - 4pm, Tuesday & 12:50pm - 1:40pm, Thursday Lunchtime	Music Room School Hall
Orchestra	8am - 8:50am, Wednesday	Music Room

All Strings rehearsals (except Training Strings) will commence in Term 1, the date of the first rehearsal will be confirmed at the start of term via email by the Strings Coordinator.

Training Strings rehearsals start in term 2 after the students have taken group instrument tutorials. The date will be advised by the Training Strings Coordinator via email.

For rehearsals that are before school, students should arrive at school promptly at 7.45 am so that the Strings rehearsal can start by 7.50 am. Students should not be dropped at school any earlier than this as there is no supervision before this time.

6. WITHDRAWAL FROM THE MUSIC PROGRAM

Discontinuing Lessons with Tutor

- **Group lessons**
 - If your child would like to discontinue group instrumental lessons, please email our tutor coordinators at tutorband.artarmonpandc@gmail.com
 - Parents are reminded that fees for group lessons are paid per semester (twice a year) to the Music Committees. If your child discontinues group lessons before the end of a semester, the full semester hire fees are payable on invoice, or, if paid, are not refundable.
- **Individual (private) lessons**
 - If you would like to discontinue your child's individual instrumental lessons, please email your child's tutor directly.
 - Parents are reminded that you must give your child's tutor one month's notice if lessons are to be discontinued or pay for the lessons for this equivalent period. Only students that attend the APS Music Program can have instrument lessons at Artarmon. All students that attend lessons at Artarmon must attend an ensemble as well.

Cancelling Instrument Hire

- If you would like to cancel instrument hire, please email our Instrument Coordinators at APSstringsinstruments@gmail.com
- Please note that instrument hire fees are paid per year to the Music Committees. If you cancel the instrument hire before the end of the year, the instrument hire fees are payable on invoice, or, if paid, are not refundable.

Withdrawing from an Ensemble

- If you would like to withdraw your child from an ensemble, please email the Strings Convenors at strings.artarmonpandc@gmail.com.
- Please note that it is a condition of APS Music Program that all students who take instrument tutorials through the Program, or hire an instrument from our Program, must be part of an ensemble.
- Students that withdraw from ensembles will be excluded from instrument tutorials and will not be able to hire an instrument through the Program.
- Ensemble fees are paid per year to the Music Committees. If your child withdraws from an ensemble before the end of the year, the ensemble fees are payable on invoice, or, if paid, are not refundable.

Leaving the School

Students who are changing schools must:

- Email the Strings Convenors strings.artarmonpandc@gmail.com
- Tutors must be given one month's notice and hired instruments must be returned after the last rehearsal.
- Y6 students who are leaving at the conclusion of the school year to go to high school the following year, must return their hired instruments after their last rehearsal.

7. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

The Strings program, as part of the Artarmon Public School Parents & Citizens (P&C) Association, engages and pays professional musicians including our Strings Director and Tutors.

All other administration & coordination of the Strings Program is managed entirely by parent volunteers.

The Strings Program always needs more help! Parents will be asked to assist with various activities throughout the year including assisting with performances such as the Strings Mother's Day Concert and assisting at Music Intensives/Camp. However, if you have any capacity to take on a larger role within the Strings Program in 2024 please contact the Strings Convenors by emailing strings.artarmonpandc@gmail.com.

Parental involvement is essential to enable the Strings Program to function and all Strings parents are required to help in some capacity. We need dedicated parent volunteers to ensure the Strings Program can run effectively.

8. COMMUNICATION

All communications will be provided to you from the Strings Committee via email. It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that you provide us with a regularly checked email address so that we can keep you up to date with details of rehearsals, lessons, events, etc.

Please provide us (on the Myschoolmusic registration) with a personal (not work) email address to avoid potential problems with personal emails not reaching work addresses or change of jobs etc.

Your primary contact for Strings enquiries is your child's Strings Coordinator. You can also contact members of the Strings committee as required on the email addresses given at the end of this document. Please ensure these email addresses are only used for Strings Program purposes. When not sure please send your enquiry to strings.artarmonpandc@gmail.com

We will also share information through the school Music News on school Newsflash every fortnight. Music News will not contain all the information, they are highlights to remind and prompt. Please always refer to your Strings Coordinator's emails.

We use the MySchoolMusic parent portal for online permission slips (e.g. for attendance at events), the Strings committee meeting minutes are published on the portal and you also need to use the portal to update parent and child details (e.g. class details).

If your child has instrumental tutorials at school, your tutor will let you know his/her contact details.

9. STRINGS CONTACTS FOR 2024

ROLE	PERSON	CONTACT
Strings Director	Adrian Mansukhani	Via your String Coordinator
String Co-Convenors	Anna Mo/Tazien Javed	strings.artarmonpandc@gmail.com
Training Strings Coordinator	TBD for 2024	
Junior Strings Coordinator	TBD for 2024	
Concert Strings Coordinator	TBD for 2024	
Orchestra Coordinator	TBD for 2024	
Senior Strings Coordinator	TBD for 2024	
Instrument Coordinators	Praj Jetty Yvonne Chu	APSstringsinstruments@gmail.com
Tutor Coordinator	Kristine Fostanes Vivian Cheung	tutorband.atarmonpandc@gmail.com
Strings Treasurer	Namitha Prasad	stringstreasurer@gmail.com
Creative Voucher Coordinator	Alison Hung	apscreativevoucher@gmail.com