



SCHOOL OF THE ARTS INFORMATION

Our desire at Oasis Preparatory School is that each child lives in their God-given, unique call and fulfils the mandate on their lives to be a 'HISTORY MAKER'. One vital avenue for the success of such an aim is providing the right environment and opening up sufficient opportunities for students to realise their own talents. Once this happens, students begin to live with purpose and courage, and begin to place great value on using such talents to live out their God-given destiny.

One environment in which this can happen is being involved in PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS. There are immense benefits to learning to play an instrument. Here is a snapshot of the research findings on the benefits of learning to play a musical instrument:

As early as the 1950's a series of experiments were carried out in Hungary to test the benefits of learning music at primary school. This test was only one of several more to follow. The results of which are all very similar

- Music Increases Memorizing Capacity & Makes You Smarter
Music students showed evidence of greater memory training. This is an important quality for students to develop to enable higher academic achievement.
- Music Improves Reasoning Capacity
There is proof from these studies that students learning music had enhanced comprehension skills. A far greater percentage of music students understood the story they were asked to read compared with non-music students.
- Music Teaches Discipline, Improves Time Management & Organizational Skills.
Students need to organise themselves to attend lessons and band rehearsals and therefore arrangement their schedules to prepare their songs etc. for the lessons. They are expected to attend promptly at the correct time also need to remember to bring the correct equipment to their lessons and band. This is assisting the child to develop basic life skills. Music students develop and improve these skills over time with the benefits reflected in their academic achievement and success later in life.
- Music Fosters the Development of Team Skills in a Fun Way
Music seeks to improve the student's team skills, especially when the student is part of an instrumental music program where they are a member of the band and other ensemble groups. As in other team activities all members have a role to play. All members are important and must learn to work as a team. This is such a fun way to learn these vital skills that will benefit students for the working world and life in general after school.

**A recent survey in the USA showed that an average of 20% of high school students are enrolled in an instrumental music program.
Look at these figures!**

The survey revealed that 80% of the academic awards are consistently gained by this 20% group of music students

[A.] Staff

Mrs. Carol Solomon

Carol loves working with children, and music has always been her passion. To her, Music is simply amazing in its ability to either help one to enter in the Presence of God, or to lead other people into the presence of God.

Mrs. Chrissie Briscoe

Chrissie has been teaching singing and piano lessons for the last 10 years at a variety of schools in South Africa and overseas, interspersed with having joined many choirs and choral societies in the UK. She loves teaching, music and working with students.

Mr. David Solomon

David specializes in brass instruments, drums, as well as assisting with the school orchestra. David is excited about joining Oasis and taking students to new heights in brass. He has played in various groups, both nationally and internationally.

Mr. Chris Smith

Chris is joining us this year as our guitar and piano teacher. He has worked in schools all over the Midlands area and is looking forward to his time at Oasis.

Ms. Jo-Anne Fisher

Jo-Anne has joined our School of Arts as our Ballet, tap and contemporary dance teacher. Althea's Dance Academy teaches the DASA syllabus. Althea has danced from a very young age and is a member of DASA herself.

[B.] Programmes Offered

- **Piano:** Students will be taught to understand the basic concepts of music (scales, key signatures, and other basic music theory) so as to play by reading basic chords and eventually by ear. Students will have the opportunity to take part in external examinations (Royal School, Unisa etc.). Students will be taught to read music, scales, improvisation as well as basic music theory in a fun environment. **Individual lessons.**
- **Guitar:** Basic acoustic guitar lessons, teaching the pupil basic chords and sequences that will enable them to play songs with guitar chords and eventually play by ear. Pupil will be taught by learning to play praise and worship songs and will learn to play as part of a worship team/band.
- **Violin:** Introduction to violin, plucking on open strings moving on to bowing techniques, scales, music theory, sight-reading and learning to play as part of a band.
- **Drum Kit:** Students will be given a basic overview of drums – learning rhythm, 4-beat, swing beat, and 3-beat. They will also learn to play as part of a team. This will give them a good foundation for developing their own style and becoming creative in their playing.
- **Bass Guitar:** Students will be given an overview of and introduction to the bass guitar. They will learn basic chords and will learn to play as part of a team.
- **Vocal Training:** Students will be taught how to improve their singing technique, take care of and develop their voice, and prepare for the performance of a song or other work.
- **Brass Instruments:** Students will be given an overview of and introduction to the various brass instruments. They will learn basic chords and will learn to play as part of a team. **PLEASE NOTE: Students will need to buy or hire the brass instrument that they choose at an extra expense.**
- **Music theory:** Students will be taught the elements of music so as to improve their understanding of music and what it is made up of. They will learn how to read music, and use scales, chords and arpeggios in worship as a foundation for all instruments. This skill will aid in songwriting and enable the pupil to play a variety of songs and styles. Students who choose classical piano will be prepared for relevant music examinations.

- **Dance:** Students will be introduced to classical ballet, tap or contemporary dance. The aim of this programme is to teach students how to use their bodies effectively and move rhythmically, as individuals as well as in a group.

2. Lesson Duration:

- Lessons are conducted for **30 minutes per week**, with the exception of Dance which will be 45 minutes per week. Please note that this is only the contact-time that students will have with their respective teacher. **Practise time will occur outside of this lesson.** Any special arrangements that music teachers make for shorter/longer practise times will be communicated with the family concerned and the student will be charged accordingly.

C. Admission Policy

- 1) All students wishing to be enrolled in the Oasis School of the Arts Music Programme must agree to the ethos of Oasis Preparatory School as laid down in the School Code of Conduct and meet the necessary entry requirements required by the school as laid out in the Admissions Policy.
- 2) All students, together with their parents, must agree to uphold the vision & values of Oasis Preparatory School, as well as abide by the rules stipulated in the School Code of Conduct.
- 3) Students are required to portray Christ-like character in their involvement in the School of Music, at all times conducting themselves in a way that honours God and honour the teachers, and fellow students involved in the School of Music.
- 4) All students are required to complete an application form when wishing to enrol in the School of the Arts and pay the required deposit fees.
- 5) All fees levied for music lessons must be paid on time and in full. Failure to make such payments at the stipulated date will mean that the contract between the student/parent & the School of the Arts is terminated. Parents will be liable for payment of all outstanding fees before a student will be considered for the music programme again. Payments with regards to the School of the Arts are subject to the same terms and conditions stipulated in the financial policies of Oasis Preparatory School as detailed in the Financial Information Statement.
- 6) **Student are required to commit for a period of SIX MONTHS (2 full school terms) when starting a new instrument.** Thereafter, one calendar month's notice must be given in writing to their respective Music Teacher prior to leaving the programme. We have found that it often takes a time of persevering when learning a new musical instrument and the '6 month introduction' period is a good way to ensure that students do not just give up when it gets tough but persevere until they have gained the necessary skill level in their instrument.
- 7) **Students are required to be punctual for all lessons.** Parents/Students will be billed for the lesson from the time it is scheduled to begin and not from the time the student arrives. It is the responsibility of the parents & student to communicate in advance with their respective teacher when there will be a change to their regular arrangement. If this does not take place, students will still be charged for their music lesson in full.
- 8) Mastering a musical instrument requires lots of practise. **Students are required to spend a MINIMUM of 5 hours per week practising their instrument outside of weekly classes.** If there is evidence that this is not happening, students will be subject to the same procedures stipulated for incomplete work in the classroom. These are outlined in the School Code of Conduct. We believe that self-discipline is the key ingredient for bearing fruit in such a music programme, and thus this attribute will be rewarded throughout the programme. We ask that each student develops their own level of discipline in their approach to learning their instrument so that they can realise the full benefits involved in such a programme.
- 9) Students will be responsible for supplying their own musical instrument for each lesson, as well as a music file and homework book. These items must accompany the student to every practise. Failing to do so may result in the lesson being cancelled by the music

teacher, and this will still attract the normal lesson charges. Students who make use of the School of the Art's instruments will be charged a minimal fee to cover wear and tear on the instrument.

D. Payment

1. Once-off Application Fee of R65.00 - covers administration costs involved in enrolling at the Oasis School of the Arts (payable annually)
2. Fees payable on the last day of every month:

| Instrument | Group | Price per lesson (30 min) |
|-------------------|------------|---------------------------|
| Piano | Individual | R 130.00 |
| Guitar | Individual | R 130.00 |
| Violin | Individual | R 130.00 |
| Drum Kit | Individual | R 130.00 |
| Vocal Training | Individual | R 130.00 |
| Bass Guitar | Individual | R 130.00 |
| Brass Instruments | Individual | R 130.00 |
| Music Theory | Group | TBC |
| Ballet | Group | R 60.00 |
| Tap | Group | R 60.00 |
| Contemporary | Group | R 60.00 |

3. All payments can be made directly to Oasis Preparatory School (SCHOOL ACCOUNT), and not to the individual Teacher:

E. Application Procedure

- 1) New students wishing to apply to the School of the Arts must complete the enclosed APPLICATION FORM and send it in to the school office along with the APPLICATION FEE.
- 2) Applications will then be processed and students will be assigned their music teacher, lesson times and practise session. Please note that this decision will depend a lot on timetabling (i.e. when and where there is time and space available in the school timetable)

We would love you to consider being a part of this exciting Programme. CONTACT US ON (033) 330 3456 OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE (www.oasisprepschool.co.za) for more details.