

# Narara Valley High School Concert Band



Narara Valley High School  
Fountains Road & Pandala Road  
Narara NSW 2250

[\(02\) 4329 3780](tel:(02)43293780)

[nararavaly-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:nararavaly-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

<https://nararavaly-h.schools.nsw.gov.au>

**Update 07 JULY 2022**

**Return of Concert Band – Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

Dear parents and carers,

Narara Valley High School is pleased to announce the reintroduction of our popular Concert Band program in Term 1 2022. We thank you for understanding of our hiatus from rehearsals in the past due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the restrictions placed on mass instrumental gatherings and school operations. On the basis of the encouraging COVID-19 vaccination status results across NSW and the subsequent relaxing of restrictions in NSW public schools, Narara Valley High School is pleased to announce that we will re-introduce onsite face to face band rehearsals **from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022**.

Health and hygiene protocols will be adhered to and the site has plenty of signs advising hand washing, cleaning, safe distancing and maximum room number protocols. Should you or a member of your household be unwell or showing any flue like symptoms, you and your child will need to stay home. Should this be a prologued absence, options of practice from home can be considered. A Guidelines document is included with this letter for your information.

It is important in our approach to all Creative and Performing Art activities that COVID-safe practices must be at the forefront of our planning and organisation. As such, the following considerations have been made:

## **Hand hygiene**

Schools have implemented a strict regimen of hygiene. Hand cleansing before and after every rehearsal is required. We have ensured that there is access to hand washing/hand sanitiser at the door to the rehearsal room and in the bathrooms.



## **Keeping safe distance**

Band members should, under the direction of the Band Director, ensure that there is at least 1.5 metres between seated band members, and consideration given to the direction of aerosol spill from bells of respective instrument types, which should be factored into seating plans.

The conductor should consider standing as far away from the band as practicable.

## **Duration of rehearsals**

Length of rehearsals should not be excessive. A maximum duration of 2 hours is suggested. Consideration of more breaks for longer rehearsals.

## **Size of group**

The size of our ensemble is consistent with the health recommendations regarding limiting the size of groups at rehearsal to maintain physical distancing. Running 'sectional' rehearsals may also be a consideration for some rehearsals moving forward.

## **Ventilation**

NVHS has taken steps to ensure that there is adequate ventilation in the Performance Space, with a minimum room temperature of 18°C. Some repair works have taken place during the Term 2 Holidays to upgrade the flooring of the rehearsal room to control humidity and sanitation.

## **Snacks and drinks**

Students should not share snacks or drinks before, during or after rehearsals.

## **Avoid shared items**

All students should have their own music folders and should be seated at their own music stand. Stands, chairs and folders should be wiped down at the end of the rehearsal. Folders should not be retained in the rehearsal room and should be taken away by students.

## **Stay home if you are unwell**

As per current school protocols, any band member displaying signs of being unwell should not attend rehearsals. Conductors should not feel pressured into running rehearsals if they are, in any way, concerned for their own health. Non-attending students can be notified of material being rehearsed and engage in solo rehearsal from home, if they feel well enough to do so.

We acknowledge this has been a challenging time for everyone and I thank you, families, students, teachers, admin staff for their commitment and willingness to learn new skills and embrace new experiences. Particularly we thank everyone for their patience and feedback.

## Narara Valley High School Concert Band



We are pleased to once again be working with NVHS Concert Band Director Mr. Mitch Lowe. Mitch has been involved with NVHS for a number of years in various musical capacities, and is not only a talented and enthusiastic ensemble leader who has worked with several premier ensembles across the Central Coast and Hunter regions, but also a skilled tutor in a number of instruments, with a specialised proficiency in brass technique.

Mr. Ben Ross of the NVHS Creative and Performing Arts faculty is once again undertaking the Band Coordinator role, serving as the school-based liaison between the band, the CAPA faculty, the executive, parents and carers, and the wider community, and maintain the links and relationships we have established with performing arts opportunities for the band to engage with, as these opportunities re-establish themselves in 2022.

Mitch, HT CAPA Lynne Akhurst and myself would like to invite all interested students to attend Concert Band rehearsals in the NVHS Performance Space (located adjacent to the Quad/Canteen) on Monday afternoons from 2.30-4.30pm to introduce Mitch to you all, answer any questions you may have, and discuss ideas and future plans for the ensemble, and of course begin the selection and rehearsal of some exciting new concert band repertoire. Students will need to be collected from the front of the school at 4.30pm by their parents/caregivers.

In order to provide students and parents the best and most accessible introduction, we are pleased to be able to offer interested students band rehearsals **completely free of charge for the remainder of Term 1**. Band fees are generally \$125 per term and cover the cost of tuition, repertoire and resources.

If you would like any further information about the Concert Band, need assistance with instrument acquisition or repair, we are always contactable via our email addresses below, and via the NVHS Facebook page and NVHS Concert Band Facebook page. It will be great to once again hear concert band music onsite at NVHS. I trust you will enjoy being back at the Concert Band rehearsals and I hope to announce further plans for the ensemble in the near future.

Kind regards,

**Ben Ross**

*Music Teacher, NVHS*

[Ben.Ross21@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Ben.Ross21@det.nsw.edu.au)

