

Performance Music Parent Handbook 2023



Norman Park State School

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1. Instrumental Program

The Department of Education offers an Instrumental Program in our school. Tuition is provided in Strings, Brass, Woodwind and Percussion Instruments.

Aim of the Program

The aims of the program are:

- To provide the opportunity for students to learn a musical instrument;
- To provide the opportunity for students to develop their musical abilities whilst learning consideration, discipline, social skills (and sometimes leadership) and responsibility as members of a band or orchestra; and
- To provide an enriching dimension to enhance the existing classroom curriculum.

Instruments

Tuition is provided for the following instruments:

Strings: Violin, Viola, Cello and Double Bass

Woodwind Flute, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone (including

Baritone Saxophone for experienced students)

Brass Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba, Baritone, French Horn, Euphonium

Percussion: Glockenspiel, Snare Drums, Tom Tom Drums, Cymbals, Triangles and

Tambourines.

A limited number of school instruments are available for loan to beginner students for one year. After this time, each child is required to purchase his/her own instrument.

This procedure does not apply for the larger, more expensive instruments listed below:

 Double Bass, Tenor Saxophone, French Horn, Baritone, Euphonium or Tuba, Baritone Saxophone or Bass Clarinet

A hire charge of \$60 per year is charged for the loan of a school instrument. This fee helps cover the cost of maintenance and repairs and contributes to the cost of musical scores, sheet music and supply of other equipment. There is also a contribution fee of \$80 per year for all students involved in the program. However, in addition to this, students are also expected to purchase their own accessories such as replacement strings, reeds, cork and valve grease, rosin, etc.

A Musical Instrument Loan Agreement is to be completed and signed by Parent/Caregiver when an instrument is loaned to a student by the school. (see Appendix A)



Instrument Repairs

Any school instrument that needs repairs should be returned to the classroom Music Teacher or one of the Instrumental Music Instructors, who will organise for the instrument to be repaired. However, if a school instrument is damaged through the negligence or carelessness of the student, repair costs will then become the responsibility of the student/family and not the school.

Tuition

According to the Department of Education's policy, students may commence tuition on a string instrument in Year 3 and tuition on a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument in Year 4. Wind instruments require the co-ordination and dexterity of a more physically mature child.

Lessons are provided by Education Queensland at no cost to the parents.

Children are accepted into the program and lessons are timetabled so that students of a simular standard are grouped together.

Tuition is provided within school time. It is therefore the responsibility of the children to bring their instruments on the day of the lesson and excuse themselves from class in time to avoid arriving late for their instrumental lessons. **They are also responsible for making up the class work missed.**

Termination of Enrolment

An Instrumental Music Contract is signed at the commencement of the program by the student and parents (see Appendices B and C). Enrolment may be discontinued by the Principal if attendance, practice, progress or aptitude is inadequate.

In the first year of tuition, first term is considered a trial period. At the end of this first term, the student may leave the program if agreed to by the parents, music teacher and Principal. However, once the decision is made to continue after this first term 'trial period', it is expected that the student will continue until the end of Year 6. In the event that a student wishes to leave the program trial, the parents and students must attend an interview with the Instrumental Teacher and Principal.

Camps

The Department of Education organises annual Beginner and Advanced Music Camps (non-residential). Students from various schools meet for up to one week and benefit from specialist group tuition, concert band or string orchestra rehearsals and choir rehearsals. All beginner students are required to attend. The cost of camps varies and is paid for by the parents/carers.

Instrumental Ensembles

Norman Park State School provides many ensembles to cater for children at the various stages of their musical development.

These include:

- **Senior String Orchestra** for students who have received two or more years tuition on a stringed instrument;
- Beginner String Orchestra to commence in Term 4
- **Senior Concert Band** for students who have received at least one year of tuition on a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument;
- **Junior Concert Band** This usually commences at the end of Term 1 in the first year for students receiving their first year of tuition on a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument;

Students may progress to a more senior ensemble if the need arises to balance numbers, provided the student is deemed capable.

Ensemble Commitments

Every child who is a member of the Instrumental Program must be a member of at least one ensemble.



The commitment made by the student is for the duration of his/her involvement in the instrumental program.

Every ensemble rehearses for at least one hour per week. These rehearsals are either before or after school or during the lunch hour.

It should be recognised that each child in an ensemble is a member of a TEAM, and as such is expected to give priority to the attendance of all performances by their ensemble.

Children must accept responsibility for attendance, practice and punctuality. A note explaining the reason for absence from rehearsals or lessons must be provided by parents.

Any change to a child's commitment can be made only by the Principal, music staff or by parents after consultation with music staff.

Performances

The major focus of the instrumental program is to develop interest and encourage achievement. It is felt that this is best accomplished by striking a balance between 'performance' and 'competition' – thus providing children with the opportunity to experience both. Opportunities are provided for performances both within the school and at external venues. The Music Specialist/Instrumental Coordinator and Instrumental Teachers are responsible for identifying suitable competitions for the various groups to enter. Often these competitions occur outside of school hours.

Children are expected to participate in all the required performances. If a child is unable to attend a performance, then a written explanation must be provided by his/her parents.

Performance Uniform

- White and blue performance polo shirt shirts owned by the NPSS Music Support Group and handed to students to wear for each performance.
- Black trousers no jeans or leggings.
- Black socks and black closed in shoes not joggers/sports shoes.
- Long hair tied with a white or black bow.



Process for Selection of 2023 Instrumental Students

Selection Information

The Instrumental Music Program is an extension opportunity for students who show high musical ability and who demonstrate personal characteristics which align with success in the learning of a musical instrument. Due to the high demand on limited resources available to schools, not all students who wish to participate in the Instrumental Program can be accommodated. Based on the size of our school, the Department of Education has allocated Instrumental Teachers as follows:

- Strings one day per week
- Woodwind, Brass and Percussion one day per week

This means that entry into the program is highly competitive as we have limited spaces available. Our annual intake capacity for 2023 is for 15-18 Year 3 children to commence Strings and 20-25 Year 4 children to commence Woodwind, Brass or Percussion. To maintain a cohesive group, children are not started at other times during the year or on any other year levels, except under very special circumstances (e.g. if a new child has been learning an instrument at another school for two years and a vacancy exists in our program then they *may* be considered for a place following an audition). All students must commit to the Instrumental Program through to the very end of Year 6.

In the program, tuition is provided for the following instruments:

- Strings: Violin, Viola, Cello and Double Bass
- Woodwind: Flute, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone (Baritone Saxophone for experienced students)
- Brass: Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba, Baritone, French Horn, Euphonium
- Percussion: Glockenspiel, Snare Drums, Tom Tom Drums, Cymbals, Triangles and Tambourines

Selection Process

Testing for the Strings Program is conducted in July of Year 2. Testing for the Woodwind, Brass and Percussion (WBP) program is conducted in July of Year 3. All Norman Park State School students in Year 2 and 3 are tested at this time by the Classroom Music Teacher (except for those Year 3 children already in the Strings Program). Students undergo a Music Aptitude Test resulting in a score. That score, along with Classroom Music marks for achievement and effort, discussions with the Instrumental Teachers, Classroom Teachers and the Principal, combine to give us a holistic understanding of a child's suitability for the Instrumental Program. We are looking for students who demonstrate the following characteristics:

- A strong commitment to learning their instrument
- A strong work ethic
- Personal organisational skills
- Persistence
- Resilience
- Excellent conduct
- Parental support to ensure children practise and also get to rehearsals, performances, competitions and instrumental workshops on time

First round offers will be sent out by the end of Week 5, Term 3. Parents of students who are successful in the first round of offers will receive an email and hard copy of a letter advising of their child's selection. Only parents whose children receive an offer will receive an email and hard copy letter. On occasion, positions may be offered in a later round, if vacancies appear.

Parents and children then accept or decline the offer of participation in the Instrumental Music Program. If accepted, a contract of commitment is signed by the student and parents/carers.

Opportunity is also given on the offer form for a child to request their preference for a particular instrument (depending on whether their offer is for Strings or WBP). At this point there will also be an assessment by the Instrumental Teacher of a child's physical capability for his/her desired instrument.



If required, a second round of offers will be compiled and issued via email and a hard copy sent home with the child to parents or carers to be accepted and commitment signed if desired. Second offers will be sent out by the end of Week 8, Term 3.

Successful families are encouraged to attend the Summer Concert and Awards Night 2022 in preparation for 2023. In Term 4, these families will also be sent the 'Parent Information Orientation for Instrumental Music' video which will outline all requirements and expectations for participation in the program.

SOMETHING TO NOTE: Under the Department of Education's policy, children who have already accepted an offer of a place in the Strings Program commencing in Year 3 cannot be offered a place in the WBP in Year 4. Therefore, should a child be offered a position in the Year 3 Strings Program but be particularly keen to wait another year to play a Woodwind, Brass or Percussion instrument (in Year 4) there may be merit in making the choice to forego entry into the Strings Program. They may request to wait for selection in WBP in the following year, noting it on their Strings' offer form.

We try our best to suit the student to their chosen instrument, but most of all we want students to enjoy their musical experience.



2. Your child as a member of the Instrumental Music Program

What you will need for lessons

Strings – Essential Elements Book 1, Rosin, Music Stand, Pencil, Display Folder,

Violins and Violas – Shoulder Rest, Cellos and Basses – Cello Stop

Woodwind, Brass, Percussion -

<u>Flute</u>	Clarinet/ Bass Clarinet
Standard of Excellence Book 1 for Flute	Standard of Excellence Book 1 for Clarinet/ Bass Clarinet
Flute Cleaning Rod	Clarinet cleaning pull- through
Silver Polishing Cloth	Cork grease
2b pencil (store in instrument case)	Clarinet/ Bass Clarinet reeds size 1 ½
Collapsible music stand	2b pencil
	Reed guard to hold four reeds
	Collapsible music stand
Alto/ Tenor Saxophone	<u>Trumpet</u>
Standard of Excellence Book 1 for Alto/Tenor	Standard of Excellence Book 1 for Trumpet
Saxophone	Valve Oil.
Saxophone cleaning pull- through	Slide grease
Cork grease	Mouthpiece Brush
Alto/ Tenor Saxophone reeds size 1 1/2	2b pencil
Alto/Tenor reed guard that fits 4 reeds	Collapsible music stand_
2b pencil	
Collapsible music stand	
<u>Trombone</u>	<u>Percussion</u>
Standard of Excellence Book 1 for Trombone	Standard of Excellence, Book 1 for Percussion
Trombone Slide cream	Pair of Drum sticks- size 7a
Slide grease	2b pencil
Trombone cleaning kit	Collapsible music stand.
2b pencil	32 note glockenspiel with carry bag (optional)
Collapsible music stand.	
Baritone/ Euphonium	<u>French Horn</u>
Standard of Excellence Book 1 for Baritone B.C	Standard of Excellence Book 1 for French Horn
Valve Oil	Rotor Oil.
Slide grease	Slide grease
Mouthpiece brush	Mouthpiece brush
2b pencil	2b pencil
Collapsible music stand.	Collapsible music stand
Bass Guitar	
Standard of Excellence Book 1 for Bass Guitar	
Instrument Cable	
Bass Guitar Tuner	

Practice

His/her progress will depend a great deal on what is achieved during daily practice sessions at home. Learning takes place in school but proficiency is gained at home. You can use the following guidelines to help your child at home.

Time Schedule

Assist your child to establish a weekly practice schedule. Start with 10 to 15 minutes and increase steadily to half an hour as the student's ability increases. Practising at the same time every day is good, but some flexibility should be built into



this schedule. Don't bring the world to a halt at 6.30pm every evening because it is time to practice. Children need time for fun and relaxation just as adults do. If the situation merits, reschedule the practice session to an earlier or later time.

Practice Goals

While a sufficient amount of time per day is important, it is also important to have definite goals in mind for each session. These goals might include the improvement of tone on one note or the ability to play a lengthy tune or exercise without a mistake.

Climate

Practising should be in an area that is free from distractions – away from the TV, mobile devices, phone and family traffic. Good lighting, a straight back chair, a mirror and a music stand are definite assets. Clarinet and saxophone players should have at least two or three good reeds available.

Encouraging your Child

You are extremely important motivators for your children. They need your support. Spend some time listening to your child practise. Being an appreciative audience can be a great boost for your child. Offer positive encouragement. You will have your own list of things to say, however these are helpful examples for starters:

- "It's great to hear you practising!"
- "You are able to practise much longer now, aren't you?"
- "Those notes are really clear/strong/confident sounding."
- "I know that tune!"

Try the instrument yourself. Let the student teach you what he or she has learned.

Is your Child Progressing?

The field of Instrumental Music is new for your child. He or she is learning to use facial muscles in a different way and his or her breathing apparatus for a different purpose. This is a new language of intangible symbols (notes) that require the use of his or her mind and body to translate into musical sounds. All this takes time. Even parents who have had band experience have probably forgotten the struggle of producing those first few tones. So the question arises: "Is he/she progressing as well as he/she should be?" Parents can evaluate practice sessions by asking themselves:

- Am I hearing attempts at new material (such as higher notes, lower notes, new rhythms and new articulations) or am I hearing the same old tune day after day?
- Is the tone quality becoming more characteristic of the instrument or is the tone harsh, unmusical and unpleasant?
- Does the familiar tune or exercise move steadily in a fluent, rhythmic manner or is it halting and jerky?

If you reach a point when your evaluation consistently comes up negative, please give the Music Specialist/Instrumental Coordinator a call. It may be helpful to arrange an interview with the students Instrumental Instructor. The student may be doing fine by beginner standards; he/she may have hit a temporary plateau; or he/she may be having difficulty in grasping the basic concept that could bring progress to a halt. This last problem may take a joint parent/teacher effort to overcome.

How parents can encourage Successful Practice

When you read this, you will probably be wondering why you thought it would be a good idea for your child to learn an instrument. Everyone goes through phases of boredom or rebellion about practising, some more frequently than others. It is easy to lose sight of the goals.



Remember that music making is one of the most gregarious pursuits, and also one of the most satisfying and time consuming. Playing an instrument is a form of relaxation, cultivated by many of the world's greatest under achievers. The ability to play a musical instrument well is one of the most highly prized skills in the adult world. It is often the plodders who achieve these things rather than the most talented, who may throw it all away in the heat of the moment.

Nothing breeds success like success. Here are a few hints to help you with your budding instrumentalist.

- Practice is best done at a regular time, in a regular place. In this climate, the best time is usually first thing in the morning. However, it is better to snatch any available ten minutes time period, rather than to miss a day completely. Ten minutes a day is much more valuable than 70 minutes once a week.
- Good posture is less tiring than bad posture. Students develop the ability to watch their playing in a mirror.
 Encourage this early. When reading music, it should be on a music stand at the correct height just below eye level.
- Your child requires help, or at least encouragement, during practise sessions. Use practice times as a positive
 "together" time with your child, even if you don't play an instrument yourself or even read music. Do the ironing
 or peel the potatoes. If necessary, organise some home incentive scheme for practice. Tick off the days
 completed on a calendar. Have a special treat at the end of the week/month. Insist on no TV or mobile devices
 until after practice is done.
- Each piece, exercise, scale should be played through at least four times each practice session. To begin with, it would be taken at a very steady pace. If the same mistake happens twice, the student should stop and correct that bar or phrase, playing it many times before proceeding with the whole piece. At the next practice session, time will be saved if this passage is repeated several times before attempting to put it in the context of the whole piece.
- If the piece sounds very odd to you, or definitely out of tune, there are several possibilities. One the instrument needs tuning; Two the student is learning a harmony part, not the tune; Three he/she is not listening to him/herself and is playing out of tune or out of time. Ask "Can you sing it first?", "Are your fingers in the correct place?", "Is there a note you can check with?"
- Getting on and learning a contentious piece is the quickest way to the next interesting phase. Ask him/her to play you something really well, however simple. Then remind him/her that once he/she couldn't play that at all. Then decide upon two bars of the contentious piece to learn today.

Happy practising!



3. Helpful notes for Students

Practising at home

What you will need:

- Instrument
- Music
- Music Stand
- Chair with straight back
- Pencil & Eraser
- A music dictionary can be helpful

Where to Practise

A quiet enclosed room. Turn off the TV and mobile devices. It is best to practise where there are no other people, or unknowingly they will "perform" rather than practice.

How often to Practise

Daily. Regular practice achieves more progress than irregular.

When to Practise

Early in the morning is best. Try to avoid late evening practice when the body and mind may be tired.

How long to Practise

At least 30 minutes per day – every day – increasing the time as endurance increases. "Pacing" the session is important. Play and rest at regular intervals. Children in Year 3 may begin by practising for 10 to 15 minutes per day.

What to Practise

Some students may allocate specific time intervals to certain segments of the sessions, but it should include warm ups, flexibility, exercises, technical work, specific pieces of music (solo or ensemble) and anything else required.

Why Practise?

- To improve skills on what is already known
- To solve things
- To learn new things
- For enjoyment

Preparing for the Session

- Set goals to be accomplished.
- Develop a warm up routine
- If preparing for exams, review technical work and review scales in the keys of the music to be practised.



Before Playing a New Piece of Music

- Check the key signature, time signature, tempo and dynamic markings
- Check all other markings use a dictionary if necessary
- "Scan" the music then read it again more carefully
- With your pencil, mark usual fingerings, accidentals and rhythms that may be troublesome
- Check and go over bars with difficult or unusual rhythms

If you have some problems, try to:

- Write out the counting
- Count out loud (use a metronome)
- Play the rhythm on one pitch
- Play as written slowly and accurately at first, and then increase speed

When you practise

Practise the music, stopping to correct mistakes WHERE THEY OCCUR. Zero in on the problems. Don't keep going back to the beginning – you only spend time on what you already know. Don't brush past the problem areas hoping to "go back later". You will never get around to it. Start with the problem.

Evaluation

Don't be afraid to ask for help if you don't think you're getting anywhere. The best players in the world do this. Listen carefully to what you are producing and try to recognise problem areas. Be critical of yourself. You are now your own teacher.

Music is a Disciplined Art

It is not uncommon to feel overwhelmed when you begin in the program. To many, the learning of music is very new. You may need to give yourself some time to adjust. Your first notes will not be perfect and some may find it takes a great deal of time to achieve the expected sound. However, with regular practise and persistence you will succeed. Music practice will become part of your day and the results will delight you.



4. Classroom Music Program

The School Music Program is provided under the curriculum guidelines of Education Queensland and features the opportunity to sing, develop aural skills and understand basic music theory. Children from Prep to Year 6 are exposed to a variety of musical instruments eg ukulele, glockenspiel, keyboard, percussion, recorder and guitar. Each class receives 30 minute specialist music instruction each week. Incidental musical experiences will be enjoyed by all children in normal classroom activities.

By the end of Year 6, students at Norman Park State School will have developed knowledge and skills in the areas of beat, rhythm and melody. Students will experience many facets of performing arts, encouraging them to develop an appreciation of music as a whole. From the start of Prep, there is a natural progression of topics covered and the development of knowledge and skills.

By the end of Year 3 - The students experience success in singing, movement, playing melodic and non-melodic percussion. The repertoire consists of mostly doh pentatonic scales.

By the end of Year 5 - The students experience success in singing, movement, playing melodic and non-melodic percussion, as well as the recorder and ukulele. The repertoire consists of doh and some la pentatonic scales.

By the end of Year 6 - Students experience success in singing, movement, playing melodic and non-melodic percussion, recorder, ukulele and acoustic guitar. Repertoire consists of songs in major and minor keys.



5. Choral Program

Choral singing at Norman Park State School is a long-standing tradition that will continue in 2023. Being part of a choir teaches the students musical skills at an extended level, aids in vocal development, team work, social skills and teaches the value of achieving goals through performance.

At Norman Park State School our shared strategic direction for our choral program is based on the following:

Vision

To foster a love of choral presentations for 2023 and beyond, with an aim to extend our choir students' capabilities whilst still maintaining the overall love for singing at our practices.

Performances

Our Senior Choir performs at our school ANZAC Day service and in 2023 will sing at the Norman Park RSL Sub-Branch for the Dawn Service. Both our Junior and Senior Choirs perform at our highly anticipated Winter and Summer Concerts as well as our end of year Awards Night. Sing Fest has been an annual massed choir event that our Year 4-6 choir students have performed in for many years, along with 1500 students across the region. We look forward to resuming that in the future. We believe our choral program is capable of vocal extension and other opportunities including eisteddfods will be further explored in 2023 and beyond.

**Please note that 2023 will contain our next musical. This much desired two-night performance is independent of choir and involves auditions in Term 1 of 2023 as well as many hours of student rehearsal requiring a staff team. Information regarding our exciting production will be shared early in 2023!

School Proposals and Requests

At the beginning of 2023 we will welcome children to become members of the Norman Park State School Junior Choir (Years 2/3) or Senior Choir (Years 4/5/6). No audition is required. Choir Sign Up letters are sent home early in Term 1 to any interested students. Joining either of our choirs mid-year will not be an option in 2023.

NPSS choir members are expected to participate for the entire year and consistently attend rehearsals and performances. A record of weekly attendance is kept. Any absences may be emailed or written to the choral conductor. This level of commitment is essential if our choirs are to perform at the highest level for which they are renowned and be viewed as a polished team. It is also expected that choir members conduct themselves as exceptional representatives of our school at all times

Choir Uniforms

Choir members, like all ensembles at our school, must perform in the Performance Uniform.

Performance Uniform

- White and blue performance polo shirt shirts owned by the NPSS Music Support Group and handed to students to wear for each performance.
- Black trousers no jeans or leggings.
- Black socks and black closed in shoes not joggers/sports shoes.
- Long hair tied in white or black bow.





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Appendix A

Musical Instrument Loan Agreement

Desc	escription of Instrument				
Туре	/pe: B	rand:			
Seria	erial No.:	Asset No.:			
Acce	ccessories:				
Stud	udent Particulars				
Nam	ame:	Class:	Year of Loan:		
Addr	ddress:				
Phor	none:				
issue (a)		onditions: nt to whom it	is lent and by no other person.		
(b) (c)					
(d) (e)) Loss or damage of any instrument on loan should be immediately reported to the school.				
(f)	•				
(g)) Instruments should be returned by the last Friday	in November	by all students.		
	nuthorise the student to accept the loan of the instrum upervision of its use. I further agree to the conditions of		•		
Nam	ame of Parent/Caregiver:				
Signa	gnature of Parent/Caregiver:		Date:		



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Appendix B

Instrumental Music Program

Instrumental Music Contract - Band

Student Details				
Name:	Class:			
Instrur	Instrument:			
Student Commitment				
I agree to:				
(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)	attend all lessons, ensemble rehearsals and performances on time; practice regularly; care and maintain my instrument and replace accessories. (reeds, grease, oil); bring tutor book, pencil, folder and instrument to all lessons, ensemble rehearsals and performances; assist with the setting up and packing up of ensemble equipment.			
Parent/Caregiver Commitment				
I agree	to:			
(a) (b) (c) (d)	support my child in his/her home practice; support my child in honouring this agreement; support the school by paying the hire and contribution fees as applicable; advise the Instrumental Teacher of child absences prior to lessons, rehearsals and performances.			
We agree to follow all the guidelines listed above.				
Name	of Parent/Caregiver:			
Signati	ure of Parent/Caregiver: Date:			

Signature of Student: ______ Date: _____



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Appendix C

Instrumental Music Program

Instrumental Music Contract - Strings

<u>Studer</u>	<u>nt Details</u>	
Name	:	Class:
Instru	ment:	
<u>Studer</u>	nt Commitment	
l agree	e to:	
(f) (g) (h) (i)	attend all lessons, ensemble rehearsals and performances on time; practice regularly; care and maintain my instrument and replace accessories. (strings, sho bring tutor book, pencil, folder and instrument to all lessons, ensemble performances; assist with the setting up and packing up of ensemble equipment.	
<u>Parent</u>	t/Caregiver Commitment	
I agree	e to:	
(e) (f) (g) (h)	support my child in his/her home practice; support my child in honouring this agreement; support the school by paying the hire and contribution fees as applicate advise the Instrumental Teacher of child absences prior to lessons, reh	
We ag	ree to follow all the guidelines listed above.	
Name	of Parent/Caregiver:	
Signat	ure of Parent/Caregiver:	Date:
Signat	ure of Student:	Date: