William Duncan State School began a new initiative that was implemented in 2014 – The Centre of Musical Excellence Program. The establishment of a Centre of Musical Excellence (CME) Program has built upon our already highly successful musical program. The development of this signature program was a cornerstone of our recent Quadrennial School Review.

One of the most important aspects of implementing this initiative was the establishment of specific CME classes. Each year we group our school musicians together thus allowing us the opportunity to offer additional opportunities for them to develop their instrumental, choral and performance skills. At this time, we host a CME class in the Year 3/4, 4/5 and 6/7 classes. The numbers of students who can enrol in these classes are limited to those established under the Queensland Teachers’ Award, so please be aware that not all students involved in Music are offered a place in a CME class.

This class is special and may differ from a normal school class because:

- Students learn, play and work with a wide variety of students with like-minded interests in Music
- Students have the opportunity to attend performances by trained musicians, and other enrichment activities and excursions
- The student / teacher ratio is 1:25 (Junior Classes) and 1:28 (Senior Classes)
- Students receive an additional Music lesson each week to enhance their music reading abilities.
As this signature program is an ‘Excellence Program’ it should be noted that the following commitments will be required from parents and students:

**Parental Commitment**

- Show an interest in the music study of your child.
- Find a quiet place for him / her to practice without interruption
- Arrange a regular time for practice
- Help him / her maintain a practice record and complete any given homework activities
- Give him / her a safe place to keep their instrument
- Teach him / her to be on time for rehearsals and lessons
- Encourage him / her to play for others whenever possible
- Purchase tutor book and accessories required (e.g. reeds, valve oil, rosin, cork grease)

**Student Commitment**

- Practice regularly – minimum 15 mins, 4 days a week
- Maintain membership of Band / String / Choral ensembles for a full school year
- Take part as required in all concerts, camps and workshop activities
- Attend lessons, rehearsals and other classes regularly as required

**In order to be selected into a CME class, students must demonstrate high levels of:**

- Participation in a Music Ensemble (Band / Strings / Choir)
- Academic achievement in Music (and other classroom key learning areas)
- Consistency (e.g. completion of homework and handing it in to the classroom teacher)
- Attendance at school
- Behaviour; both in the playground and the classroom environments