

# Middle Years Curriculum

Healesville High School provides a comprehensive curriculum across the Middle Years (Years 7, 8 and 9 ). It has embraced the new Victorian Essential Learning Standards to provide education in three strands of Physical, Personal, and Social Learning; Discipline based learning; and Interdisciplinary Learning. While the eight Key Learning Areas: English, Maths, Science etc. form the core of the curriculum it is recognized that real learning is also cross-curricula. Thematic approaches to learning are built in to each child's development. As a member of the Yarra Valley eLearning Community, students in the Middle Years will expand on their knowledge of technology and apply computer skills across a range of different subjects.

As students progress through the Middle Years there is a shift in emphasis toward meeting personal and vocational needs. Year 9 students have greater opportunities to select subjects, particularly in Art and Technology areas. Japanese becomes optional and programs integrating with the local community are encouraged.

In the Middle Years the curriculum provision is based on the homegroup structure. We aim to minimize the number of teacher and classroom changes students face. The classroom challenges students to actively participate in their own learning and develop an understanding of how they learn so they will be effective learners throughout their whole life. There is scope for students to both develop and enhance their skills in the classroom or receive assistance if their foundation literacy and numeracy skills are limited. Students who need individualised learning programs will be supported by our Special Assistance teacher, together with the classroom teacher.

High achievers are encouraged and supported in all subjects, with a range of competitions and programs available for students in the Middle Years e.g. Mathematics, Science, Geography and Spelling competitions. Many students also choose to study an extra language by Distance Education to enhance their language skills and better prepare themselves for excellence in VCE. The use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) is integral to all learning in the Middle Years classroom.

There are many extra curricular activities which students can also become involved in e.g. whole school and interschool sport; music; bands; performances; student leadership (SRC and Club Captains); Japanese visitor program; Arts festivals; lunchtime activities.

**Instrumental Music** is available to any student wishing to learn to play an instrument. Lessons are conducted weekly on a rotational basis, additional to the regular school music program and students are expected to perform in school bands. The following instruments are available: Percussion, Brass, Guitar, Woodwind or Piano.

How your child is progressing throughout the Middle Years is communicated each term and detailed reports are provided at the end of each semester. At Healesville High student achievements are recognised and celebrated twice a year at award ceremonies.

## YEAR 7 CURRICULUM PROGRAM

ENGLISH	MATHS	Health and Physical Education	Science	LOTE (Japanese)	SOSE History	IT All groups semester 1	<b>ROTATING PROGRAM</b>  <b>8 WEEK BLOCKS</b> <b>5 Studies</b> ARTS /TECH	SPORT
<b>Semester change</b>								
ENGLISH	MATHS	Health and Physical Education	Science	LOTE (Japanese)	SOSE Geography	Music All groups semester 2		SPORT
<b>5 periods</b>	<b>5 periods</b>	<b>3 periods</b>	<b>4 periods</b>	<b>2 periods</b>	<b>3 periods</b>	<b>2 periods</b>	<b>4 periods</b>	<b>2 periods</b>

**Arts and Technology Rotating block:** Studies for 8 weeks X 4 periods (two “double lessons” each week).  
Studies selected from: Ceramics, Wood, Visual Arts, Food and Textiles

## YEAR 8 CURRICULUM PROGRAM

ENGLISH	MATHS	Science	Physical Education	SOSE History	LOTE Japanese	Music	<b>ROTATING PROGRAM</b>  <b>1 term BLOCKS</b> <b>4 Studies</b> ARTS /TECH	SPORT
<b>Semester change</b>								
ENGLISH	MATHS	Science	Food and Health	SOSE Geography	Cultural Program	Information Technology		SPORT
<b>5 periods</b>	<b>5 periods</b>	<b>3 periods</b>	<b>4 periods</b>	<b>3 periods</b>	<b>2 periods</b>	<b>2 periods</b>	<b>4 periods</b>	<b>2 periods</b>

**Arts and Technology Rotating block:** Students select a “block” of 4 studies X 1 term x 4 periods.  
Studies selected from: Systems, Graphics Design, Visual Arts, Textiles, Materials (wood, metal, plastics)

## YEAR 9 CURRICULUM PROGRAM

<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>MATHS</b>	<b>SCIENCE</b>	<b>SOSE</b> Geography	<b>H/PE</b> Health	<b>THE ARTS</b> Ceramics Visual Arts Visual Design Photography Music Drama  <b>TECHNOLOGY</b> Food Info. Tech Metal Textiles Systems Wood	<b>SPORT</b>	
<b>Semester change</b>							
<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>MATHS</b>	<b>SCIENCE</b>	<b>SOSE</b> Commerce (The Real Game)	<b>H/PE</b> Physical / Outdoor Education		<b>SPORT</b>	
<b>4 periods</b>	<b>4 periods</b>	<b>4 periods</b>	<b>4 periods</b>	<b>4 periods</b>	<b>4 periods</b>	<b>4 periods</b>	<b>2 periods</b>

**LOTE: Japanese.** Students elect to not to do a study in one of the KLA's each semester.