MITCHAM GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

CURRICULUM HANDBOOK 2012

YEAR 8
Middle School

Year 8

SUBJECT SELECTION

Students in Year 8 study subjects from 8 curriculum areas. These 8 areas are Arts, Design and Technology, English, Health and Personal Development, Languages, Mathematics, Science and Society and Environment.

Year 8s choose 2 Choice Subjects to be studied during the year. Each Year 8 Choice Subject is one semester in length.

YEAR 8 CURRICULUM

Compulsory Subjects Studied for a Full Year

- English or English as a Second Language (ESL) Full Year
- Language: French or Italian Full Year
- Mathematics Full Year
- Science Full Year

Compulsory Subjects Studied for 1 Semester

- Health Education and Home Economics 1 Semester
- Physical Education 1 Semester
- Society and Environment 1 Semester
- Technology Workshop 1 Semester

Choice Subjects Studied for 1 Semester

- Art 1 Semester
- Dance 1 Semester
- Drama 1 Semester
- Information Technology 1 Semester
- Music A 1 Semester
- Music B 1 Semester

Students who learn an instrument through the school are expected to study Music for a minimum of one Semester.

Most subjects can be studied at Year 9 without having studied them in Year 8. Please check the desired background for individual subjects in this handbook.
Art

Subject Length: One Semester
Desired Background: Nil
Subject Description: The course introduces students to the Visual Arts through Art, Craft and Design. Students work with a wide variety of art materials and approaches may include drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, fabrics, ceramics and design. Students reflect on their own art work and that of artists.

Assessment: Students are assessed progressively on their skill, development and commitment. They are also required to complete a variety of practical, written and research based tasks.

Special Subject Costs or Requirements: Nil.

Subject Coordinator: Ms Meredith Arnold

Dance

Subject Length: One Semester
Desired Background: Nil
Subject Description: Students are involved in developing physical strength, flexibility, coordination and balance through skill based sessions. They create their own theme based movement sequences, perform in small and large groups and reflect on their own work as well as on the work of others.

Assessment: Students are assessed on their physical skill, progress and commitment. They are also required to complete a variety of practical, written and research based tasks.

Special Subject Costs or Requirements: Students are required to change into appropriate dance wear for each lesson. Students may have the opportunity to attend a dance performance during the semester.

Cost: Approximately $10.00.

Subject Coordinator: Ms Meredith Arnold
Drama

Subject Length: One Semester
Desired Background: Nil

Subject Description:
Year 8 Drama is an introduction to basic stagecraft, improvisation and acting skills. Students learn and develop performance, ensemble and audience skills while learning to reflect on their own work, as well as the work of others. Students are introduced to review writing.

Assessment:
Students are assessed progressively on their skill, development and commitment. They are also required to complete a variety of practical, written and research based tasks.

Special Subject Costs or Requirements:
Students may have the opportunity to attend a drama performance during the semester.

Cost: Approximately $10.00.

Subject Coordinator:
Ms Meredith Arnold
English

**Subject Length:** Full Year

**Desired Background:** Nil

**Subject Description:**
Students will develop their language and literacy skills through:
- The study of a variety of texts.
- The study of language through the construction and analysis of oral, written and visual texts.

Units of work on Drama, Poetry and the Media are also included.

**Assessment:**
Students are assessed in a variety of forms including written tasks, group work, research assignments, tests, ICT and oral presentations.

An independent reading program is a required part of this course.

**Special Subject Costs or Requirements:**
Students need to purchase a literacy workbook (Pearson English 8), focusing on grammar and language exercise, which is completed throughout the year.

Cost: Approximately $20.00 (available from Campion Education or MGHS booklist).

**Subject Coordinator:**
Ms Zinta Ozolins
English as a Second Language

Subject Length: Full Year
Desired Background: English must be a second language for the student

Subject Description:
Students are encouraged to improve their literacy skills by their participation and involvement in a smaller class, ensuring more one-on-one support.

Students study topics of interest, developing their English skills through participation in a range of structured learning activities including listening, speaking, reading, viewing and writing.

Assessment:
Students are required to complete a range of tasks including worksheets, tests, oral presentations, research assignments and listening and written comprehensions.

Special Subject Costs or Requirements:
Nil.

Subject Coordinator:
Ms Zinta Ozolins
French

**Subject Length:** Full Year

**Desired Background:** Nil

**Subject Description:**
This course is designed to develop students’ interest in and enjoyment of the French language and culture. Students learn to use the French language by developing the skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking in French. To enrich their understanding of French life and culture, students explore a range of texts, plays, songs, stories and poems.

**Assessment:**
Tasks include role plays, conversations, written tasks, quizzes and listening activities.

**Special Subject Costs or Requirements:**
Students are required to purchase a language workbook (approximate cost $25.00) and will have the opportunity to participate in a range of relevant activities, including Pétanque competitions and excursions to cafés and markets.

**Subject Coordinator:**
Mr Alex Bambrough
Health Education and Home Economics

Subject Length: One Semester
Desired Background: Nil

Subject Description:
In Health Education students are introduced to the concept of developing positive self esteem, making informed choices about drug use (with an emphasis on smoking) and begin to examine issues related to human sexuality.

In Home Economics students are introduced to the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating, which assists them in making informed food choices. They discover how to select food for good health and, in the process, develop management and problem solving skills and sound safety and hygiene practices.

Assessment:
Health Education: Students are required to complete a range of tasks including oral presentations, written assignments and research assignments.

Home Economics: A combination of practical tasks (60%) and associated written assignment work (40%).

Special Subject Costs or Requirements:
Students may be required to supply some ingredients when completing major tasks in Home Economics.

Subject Coordinator:
Ms Sandy Alston
**Information Technology**

**Subject Length:** One Semester  
**Desired Background:** Nil  

**Subject Description:**  
This course is designed to provide a balance of practical hands on experiences through a problem solving approach, and some fundamental knowledge for coping in today’s technology driven society.

Students research basic computer systems and develop file management skills.

Students explore a variety of multimedia applications. They create animations, web pages and manipulate images using Photoshop. The integration of multimedia files is investigated.

The Internet and email are used to support learning while examining issues such as privacy, information credibility and copyright.

**Assessment:**  
Students demonstrate evidence of their learning through skills orientated tasks, assignments, written projects and design tasks.

**Special Subject Costs or Requirements:**  
USB Store Drive, Internet Access and Printing Credit.

**Subject Coordinator:**  
Ms Peter Cottle
Italian

Subject Length: Full Year
Desired Background: Nil

Subject Description:
This course is designed to develop students’ interest in and enjoyment of the Italian language. Students learn to use the Italian language by developing the skills of reading, writing and speaking in Italian. To enrich their understanding of Italian life and culture, students explore a range of texts, plays, songs, stories and poems.

Assessment:
Tasks include role plays, conversations, language tests, written tasks and listening activities.

Special Subject Costs or Requirements:
Students are required to purchase a language workbook (approximate cost $20.00) and will have the opportunity to participate in a range of relevant excursions to cafés and markets.

Subject Coordinator:
Mr Alex Bambrough
Mathematics

**Subject Length:** Full Year

**Desired Background:** Nil

**Subject Description:**
This course aims to develop students’ interest in Mathematics while providing a basis for further studies by consolidating basic skills, developing the student’s confidence and ability to read, understand and translate information to solve problems. Many opportunities are presented for students to explore and use mathematics in a variety of contexts and real life applications.

Topics include:
- Statistics
- Numbers
- 3D Shapes and Nets
- Length, Perimeter, Area and Volume
- Patterns, Like Terms and Symbols
- Directed Numbers
- Angles, Triangles and Polygons
- Coordinates and Axes
- Percentages
- Probability
- Equations
- Networks and Transformations

**Assessment:**
Tasks include projects, assignments and tests.

**Special Subject Costs or Requirements:**
Students require a scientific calculator.

Cost: Approximately $20.00.

**Subject Coordinator:**
Mr Terry Dalkos
**Music A**

**Subject Length:** One Semester  
**Desired Background:** The ability to play a musical instrument is an advantage  
**Subject Description:** Students learn the basics of reading and writing music and attend weekly instrumental lessons on the instrument of their choice. Students learn basic keyboard skills and they participate in a class ensemble. Music of other cultures, rock music and a study of instruments will be explored.

**Assessment:** Students are required to complete a variety of practical and theory tasks, as well as a research project.

**Special Subject Costs or Requirements:** Students who do not have their own instrument can hire one from the school. The cost of hire in 2012 is $60.00 per semester. There is also a compulsory subject fee of $50.00 per semester.

**Subject Coordinator:** Ms Meredith Arnold

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**Music B**

**Subject Length:** One Semester  
**Desired Background:** Completion of Music A or the ability to play a musical instrument  
**Subject Description:** Students extend their knowledge of the basics of reading and writing music and continue weekly instrumental lessons on the instrument of their choice. They participate in a class ensemble and perform to other Year 8 classes. The music of famous composers will be explored.

**Assessment:** Students are required to complete a variety of practical and theory tasks, as well as a research project.

**Special Subject Costs or Requirements:** Students who do not have their own instrument can hire one from the school. The cost of hire in 2012 is $60.00 per semester. There is also a compulsory subject fee of $50.00 per semester.

**Subject Coordinator:** Ms Meredith Arnold
Physical Education

**Subject Length:** One Semester

**Desired Background:** Nil

**Subject Description:**
Students develop their skills and fitness levels in a range of activities including swimming and lifesaving, gymnastics, aerobics, soccer, netball, badminton and floor hockey.

**Assessment:**
Students are required to complete a variety of assignments and will also be assessed on their skill level, effort and participation in practical topics.

**Special Subject Costs or Requirements:**
Students are expected to change into the sports uniform and appropriate footwear for all lessons.

**Subject Coordinator:**
Ms Sandy Alston

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Science

**Subject Length:** Full Year

**Desired Background:** Nil

**Subject Description:**
Students develop an understanding of scientific theories and concepts used in a real world context. Using an inquiry approach students develop practical skills to design scientific investigations.

Areas studied may include:

- Simple Machines
- Planet Earth
- Energy and Fossil Fuels
- Matter/Pure Substances & Chemical Mixtures
- Forensic Science
- Living Things
- Forces
- Senses and the Skeleton

**Assessment:**
Assessment includes practicals, reports, investigations, formal testing, assignments, research and problem solving exercises.

**Special Subject Costs or Requirements:**
Excursion costs and competition fees.

**Subject Coordinator:**
Ms Helen Marussinszky
**Society & Environment**

**Subject Length:** One Semester

**Desired Background:** Nil

**Subject Description:**
Students develop knowledge and skills which enable them to participate in a range of ways as active and informed citizens in our local and global communities.

The course consists of four topics:
- Ancient Studies
- Australian Identities
- Mapping
- World Travel

The World Travel topic integrates a four week research based investigation that enables students to learn and develop research skills intrinsic to the SACE.

**Assessment:**
Students are required to complete a range of tasks including worksheets, tests, oral presentations, research assignments and visual presentations.

**Special Subject Costs or Requirements:**
Nil.

**Subject Coordinator:**
Mr Alex Bambrough
Technology Workshop

**Subject Length:** One Semester

**Desired Background:** Nil

**Subject Description:**
Students design and make two wood projects, including a simple mechanical system and a jewellery box. They learn two dimensional and three dimensional drawing techniques as part of the design process for these projects. Renewable resources and their impact on the environment are addressed throughout the course.

**Assessment:**
Course work includes practical tasks, research assignments and design tasks that may be assessed individually or as a group.

**Special Subject Costs or Requirements:**
Nil.

**Subject Coordinator:**
Mr Peter Cottle