Year 8 Program 2015

High Expectations
Personal Best
Integrity
Respect
Responsibility
Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Year 8 program at Mordialloc College. The Year 8 teaching team consists of a highly skilled and motivated group of teachers and we look forward to working alongside you throughout 2015.

The Year 8 program at Mordialloc College sees students immersed in a comprehensive range of learning activities throughout the course of the year. They participate in a diverse range of core and specialist subjects, and utilise a range of flexible learning spaces throughout the College, whilst basing themselves in the Year 8 Enquiry Zone. The program also includes an exciting mix of extra-curricular activities including an adventure camp, a range of excursions and sports days.

The following handbook provides information about the development of the Year 8 program, Victorian and Australian curriculum requirements, student learning across the Year 8 program and learning within specialist subject areas.

We hope you enjoy your time as a part of the Year 8 Learning Community in 2015. Parent support of the program and the school values is vital to the development of happy and successful secondary students.

Best wishes,

The Year 8 Learning Team
The Victorian Essential Learning Standards and the Australian Curriculum

AusVELS is the Foundation to Year 10 curriculum that provides a single, coherent and comprehensive set of prescribed content and common achievement standards, which schools use to plan student learning programs, assess student progress and report to parents.

AusVELS incorporates the Australian Curriculum F-10 for English, Mathematics, History and Science within the curriculum framework first developed for the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS). AusVELS uses an eleven level structure to reflect the design of the new Australian curriculum, while retaining Victorian priorities and approaches to teaching and learning.

This curriculum, implemented by the Victorian Government, aims to refocus student learning on the learning process itself – learning how to learn – while enabling students to develop real skills and knowledge and independent and collaborative proficiencies.

The AusVELS identify the learning that is important for students to succeed in school, at work, in their personal lives and in the community.

The curriculum, developed by the Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority, reflects a new approach to student learning and standards in Victorian schools. These standards have the support of all educational sectors and apply to all schools in Victoria – government and non-government.

AusVELS is set in three linked main strands or areas:

**Physical, Personal and Social Learning:**
Skills such as being active and healthy, developing self-confidence, managing personal learning, organisation, planning and working with others.

**Disciplinary Learning:**
Knowledge and understanding from the learning areas of English, Science, Mathematics, Humanities, Languages and the Arts.

**Interdisciplinary Learning:**
Essential skills that apply across the curriculum such as thinking, design, problem solving and using ICT (Information, Communications and Technology).
Year 8 Learning Program

Integrated Learning

Mordialloc College provides each student in Year 8 with a comprehensive education. Every student will experience a balanced program encompassing all learning areas. In addition, all students will be involved in Sport Education and will have many other opportunities to enrich their education through productions, the music programs, competitions, clubs and representative teams in many areas.

Each student’s learning program is divided into 5 main areas, Discovery (Maths and Science), Communication (English and Humanities), Active8 (integrated project time), specialist classes and Sport Education. The Active8 sessions will see students engaging in enquiry and project based learning including designated applied learning experiences. Areas covered are:

- English
- Humanities
- Mathematics
- Science
- Physical Education
- Sport Education

iPad Program

The purpose of this program is to allow students to thrive as global Citizens in the 21st Century. The program is a continuation on from the 1:1 iPad program introduced into Year 7 at the beginning of 2014. The students access their textbooks, curriculum and planning tools on their device and they can complete and submit their work electronically by ‘sharing’ the documents with their teacher via our Year 8 Google Site. They are able to record and present their learning in new and innovative ways.
COMMUNICATION - ENGLISH

The standards required in English at this level include
- Writing an argument and defining a personal position
- Using correct spelling, grammar and punctuation
- Critically evaluating the spoken language of others, asking clarifying questions and identifying important ideas while listening to other people
- Responding to a variety of texts. Students are encouraged to read widely. The school provides some texts and others are purchased by parents through the booklist. The set texts provide a common background for analysis and discussion while wide reading schemes encourage the power of discrimination

Students are also encouraged to participate in group and class discussions and planned and spontaneous speaking and listening activities such as performance, poetry readings, text response, prepared and impromptu talks, public speaking and debating. Writing skills are developed with an emphasis on the process of drafting and editing. Students will be encouraged to experiment with a variety of styles and modes and will write for various purposes and audiences. English at our school is exciting and it invites every student to become fully involved as a writer, debater, actor and critic - but most importantly, a participant.

EAL students are also provided with special assistance within and outside the classroom.

COMMUNICATION - HUMANITIES

The Humanities component of the integrated Year 8 curriculum encourages students to investigate the behaviour of people in all their different environments throughout the ages. Students develop research, process and interpreting skills to enable them to analyse events and issues, construct hypotheses and make informed judgements.

GEOGRAPHY

Students use a variety of geographic tools and skills, together with an inquiry-based approach, to investigate the characteristics of the Asia-Pacific region, including location, economics and social and cultural characteristics of communities and countries. They explore how and why, over time, human and physical interactions produce changes to the characteristics of regions, for example, settlement patterns and agricultural and urban land use.
**HISTORY**

Students develop knowledge and understanding THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD IN BOTH Japan and Europe and their role in providing the foundations of modern society. This enhances students' knowledge and use of historical concepts such as time, change and continuity and cause and effect, and develops a broad historical map. Students also examine key features of community life, how societies are ruled and by whom and the strengths and weaknesses of historical sources and historical information.

**ECONOMICS**

Students develop an understanding of their role in the economy and learn how different events and circumstances influence how people spend money. Students learn key economic vocabulary and concepts relating to the Australian economy.

**DISCIPLINARY LEARNING - DISCOVERY**

**DISCOVERY - MATHEMATICS**

The Mathematics component of the Year 8 curriculum has been developed to encourage students to build their numeracy skills and knowledge through participating in learning that is firmly linked to real life situations. Numeracy can be fun, interesting, stimulating and vigorous for all students.

All Year 8 students are actively involved in Numeracy, as problem solving and project work is an integral aspect of the program. In addition, Numeracy workshops are also run four times per week to provide specialised assistance in this area. Students learn not only how to do the mathematics, but also how to apply numeracy in real life situations using imagination and creativity.

Students develop skills in Number, Space, Measurement, Chance and Data, Structure and Working Mathematically.

**DISCOVERY - SCIENCE**

At Year 8 our students are encouraged to develop their skills as scientists. Students discover many new scientific concepts by their involvement in carefully designed practical work and research projects. Students also participate in lab sessions in the Discovery Centre.

Students will study the following units:

- Matter and Energy
- Geology
- Chemistry
- Body systems
- Cells
- Ecosystems
- Sustainability
- Forces and motion

They also explore how scientific work has led to the discovery of new knowledge and understanding about the natural world and changed our understanding of ourselves and our possible destiny.
INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING

Interdisciplinary Learning integrates and embeds the skills and knowledge of the associated areas of Communication, Information and Communications Technology and Thinking in the wider Year 8 curriculum.

**Communication**
Information and Communications Technology (ICT) focuses on providing students with the tools to transform their learning and to enrich their learning environment. ICT enables students to focus on the task to be accomplished rather than on the technology they are using to do the work. Through the selection and application of appropriate equipment, techniques and procedures, they process data and information skillfully to create information products in forms that are meaningful for themselves and their audience.

Students are provided with tools and strategies to monitor learning patterns and problem-solving strategies. They gain an understanding of Internet protocols and strategies for exchanging information, which enables them to share and challenge their own and other people’s ideas and solutions with a global audience. In the Enquiry Zone all students have an iPad to use to demonstrate their ICT skills.

**Thinking**
The development of critical thinking skills is crucial to the successful learning progress of our students and their ability to become ‘Life Long Learners.’ At Year 8, thinking skills are not taught as a separate component of the Year 8 integrated curriculum. They are embedded into all aspects of the curriculum. Students are challenged and supported to develop deep levels of thinking and application. They will learn how to use a variety of quality learning tools to support them to plan and develop their learning.

They will also be supported to develop reasoning, processing and inquiry skills and to think creatively. Each student will create a Learning Portfolio that contains evidence of their learning journey which identifies their ability to reflect, evaluate and improve in their achievement.
PERSONAL LEARNING

As an integrated component of the Year 8 curriculum, Personal and Social Learning focuses on three areas of development crucial to the adolescent learner and his/her ability to experience personal success. These three areas are:

**The Individual Learner & Managing Personal Learning**
Students identify their individual strengths and weaknesses and analyse how emotions affect their learning. They use an expanded repertoire of learning strategies. When learning with peers they develop effective relationships, providing and responding to constructive feedback.

Students learn to set realistic short and long-term learning goals within a variety of tasks and describe their progress towards these. They organise and complete tasks within set time frames, plan and prioritise their available time, demonstrate motivation, and consider both their own and others’ needs when making decisions about suitable learning processes.

**Civics and Citizenship - Civics Knowledge and Understanding & Community Engagement**
Students are encouraged to participate in school events, or with the school in local or community events. They explore democratic processes through research and use appropriate information-gathering techniques, including interviews. They work with others and participate in decision making.

**Interpersonal Development - Building Social Relationships & Working in Teams**
Students learn skills that they can utilise as a team member. They support other members to share information, explore the ideas of others and work cooperatively to achieve a shared purpose within a realistic time frame.

They reflect on individual and team outcomes and act to improve their own and the team's performance.
SPECIALIST SUBJECTS—Semester 1 & 2

In addition to their core learning areas all Year 8 students participate in a variety of rich and rewarding specialist subjects.

Each week during Semester 1 & 2 students will have specialist classes in:
PHYSICAL EDUCATION
SPORT EDUCATION
FRENCH (Language Other Than English -LOTE)

In addition to this, students complete classes for one Semester in:
TECHNOLOGY (Food Technology and Design Technology)
THE ARTS (Performing Arts)
VISUAL ARTS (Art and Graphic Communications)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
In Year 8, Physical Education classes enable students to learn the importance of healthy and active lifestyles and they participate in a range of activities including athletics, volleyball, cricket, role playing, fitness, swimming, soccer, gymnastics, decision-making activities, hockey, football, basketball, netball, softball, dance, indoor games and tennis.

Participation in these activities allows students to meet the challenges provided by varied experiences and to build important teamwork skills that can be applied in the future.

SPORT EDUCATION
Sport Education is compulsory at Year 8 and runs for one period each week. The aims of the program are to introduce students to a range of sports and to increase the activity levels and health of students. Students are required to wear their PE uniform for Sport Education.

Sports covered include cricket, tennis, badminton, table tennis, football, soccer, hockey, netball, minor games, basketball, volleyball, futsal, baseball, softball, rugby, handball, ultimate frisbee, lacrosse, lawn bowls and super 8s cricket.

Students have the opportunity to compete against other schools in the district in a round robin format each term. Successful teams at district level can proceed to zone and then on to state finals.

LOTE (Language Other Than English)

FRENCH - LE FRANÇAIS
Students study French until the end of Year 8. French studies become an elective at Year 9 (except for SEAL students). Emphasis is placed on studying the four linguistic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Language teachers use a variety of approaches to encourage their students to progress to the best of their abilities. The approaches include the use of ICT, role-plays, games, projects, cultural event days and story writing.
**TECHNOLOGY**

**Food Technology**
In Food Technology, students learn organisation, time management, hygiene, nutrition and basic skills and methods. They produce mouthwatering, interesting meals, cakes and biscuits. In Year 8, students concentrate on food for the whole semester.

**Design Technology**
During this semester, students will continue to develop their understanding in the various areas of Design Technology and build on knowledge and skills previously covered. Students will focus on researching a number of key important design factors and show evidence of this in a Portfolio. Students continue to develop practical skills, using a variety of new processes. Projects are based around students working as young designers to create products that meet a specific design brief. They work with various materials including wood, metal and plastic and study Electronics. Students also revisit Computer Aided Design (CAD) and develop their skills in a number of different CAD software packages.

**THE ARTS**

**Performing Arts**
Students participate in a range of activities such as acting and role-playing, music, script development and stagecraft. These activities involve both independent and group work and support the student to develop creativity and confidence. In Drama, students will develop confidence while exploring different dramatic skills such as improvisation, mime, character building and playmaking.

There are a number of different performance opportunities throughout the year that students are encouraged to take part in. Students reflect on their experiences in the drama classroom by keeping an analytical journal.

The College presents a full scale production each year. All students are encouraged to participate in the excellent extra curricula events on offer. In 2008 the College was the proud winner of the Rock Eisteddfod Grand Final. In 2011 the College produced a high quality full production of the musical ‘Bye Bye Birdie’ and in 2012, an original version of ‘A Night Amongst the Stars’. In 2013 the musical ‘Singin in the Rain’ was performed. ‘Variety High’ was 2014’s production.

Instrumental music is available to all students at the school and, with our many music specialists, students are able to choose from various different instruments. They will also have the opportunity to join the school bands and/or vocal group and participate in a range of musical events within and outside the College.

**VISUAL ARTS**

**Art and Graphics**
At Year 8, students are introduced to graphic communication, which looks at creative and technical drawing and technologically aided design. Instrumental drawing teaches the conventions used in industry and the design process looks at the creative development of visual communication.
HOME GROUPS

The Year 8 program aims to build on the strong relationships students have formed during their time in Year 7. Having acknowledged current educational research and the importance of focusing not only on ‘what students learn’ but ‘how they learn best’, Mordialloc College is committed to providing the personal support students need to achieve their best.

Therefore, each Year 8 student is carefully grouped into a class sized team; this team is called their ‘Home Group’. Every group is attached to two significant teachers. Students will identify their individual teacher as their ‘Home Group Teacher.’

Collectively, the Home Group Teachers form the Year 8 teaching team and, with the exception of specialist classes, work with all the students in this level within the Enquiry Zone.

Your child’s Home Group Teacher is your main contact and support adult at the school. Home Group Teachers are responsible for:

- Developing strong and supportive relationships with their Home Group of students
- Building a comprehensive portfolio with each child and charting their learning journey throughout the year
- The assessment, monitoring and reporting for each of the students in their Home Group
- Communication regarding their student’s learning and behaviours to parents and carers
**ASSESSMENT**

Students will participate in a variety of assessment practices and tasks during Year 8. Assessment tasks may include tests, assignments, essays, oral presentations and individual and group projects.

Student learning within the Year 8 program will be assessed in line with AusVELS and the Australian Curriculum.

Students are encouraged to be actively involved in their learning and assessment processes. With the support of their Home Group Teacher, they will learn to identify short and long term goals and plan strategies for improvement.

Parents will receive a detailed report of their student’s achievement at the end of Semester 1 and again at the end of Semester 2 in line with Victorian Government guidelines and the AusVELS.

**STUDENT LED PARENT CONFERENCES**

During Term 1 and 3, parents and carers of Year 8 students will be invited to the Enquiry Zone to attend a Student Led Parent Conference. The conference runs for 15 minutes and is a valuable opportunity for students to showcase their learning and articulate their progress.

Student Led Parent Conferences have been extremely successful and have proven to be very effective in improving student learning, motivation, organisational skills and self-confidence.

The conference provides parents/carers with the opportunity to participate in a very meaningful and comprehensive learning experience with their child. As the conference is designed and led by the student it gives parents and carers the unique opportunity to explore the learning environment and learning process through their child’s eyes.
Values

Mordialloc College staff and students share and proudly demonstrate our agreed values

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Personal Best
Work to the best of your ability. Pursue excellence, try hard and constantly seek to improve.

Integrity
Be true to yourself by doing what is right. Be honest and trustworthy.

Respect
Treat everyone with equal consideration. Be accepting of others and their differences.

Responsibility
Be accountable for your actions. Contribute positively to the school and wider community.