Welcome

Welcome to Year 8 at Victoria University Secondary College. A team of dedicated teachers focus on providing a supportive environment and an engaging curriculum to ensure that ALL of our Year 8 students can aspire to achieve.

This handbook contains all of the information that students and their parents need to know about the Year 8 learning program at Victoria University Secondary College in 2015. We have created a curriculum that combines core subjects with an elective program to provide students with a broad range of learning experiences and allow them to personalise their learning program according to personal interests, strengths and future pathways.

For more information please contact:

  Shaun Faulkhead  ‘Unite’ Learning Village Leader, 9363 1155
  Karen Steele  ‘Connect’ Learning Village Leader, 9363 1155
Junior School Promotion Policy

At Victoria University Secondary College we regard the learning and teaching process as a partnership between students, parents and staff. Therefore, we expect our students to actively participate in this process and to take personal responsibility for their own learning. We similarly expect our parent community to support their children both directly, by providing them with appropriate materials, monitoring homework and encouraging wide-reading, as well as indirectly, by supporting the school and its policies.

Parents and students should be well aware that promotion of students to a higher year level is not automatic and that a strict promotions policy is adhered to.

Promotion to Years 8, 9 and 10 requires students to:

1. Have 90% attendance in all subjects and be consistently punctual to class.
2. Achieve a satisfactory work standard by:
   - Putting an acceptable level of effort into all classroom and assessed tasks.
   - Completing and handing in all assessment tasks to an acceptable standard.
   - Displaying an ongoing commitment to studies and consistent work throughout the year.

Student progress in these areas is communicated through:
- Teacher notes in student diary
- Phone calls home
- Progress letters
- Reports
- Parent teacher interviews

Inability to meet Promotion Requirements

If a student does not meet these promotion policy requirements they will be identified at various stages throughout the year:
- Interim Reports Term 1
- Semester 1 Reports Term 2
- Interim Reports Term 3
- Term 4 — Promotion Offers

The support strategies that may be provided include:
- An Individual Learning Plan designed to support the students
- A parent, teacher, student support group
- Achievement cards/Attendance cards to update student progress
- Welfare/Integration support if required
- Compulsory lunchtime or afterschool “Homework Club” to redeem attendance, catch up on work missed and get help from teachers
If at the end of Term 4 a student has still not met the requirements of the promotion policy, they will need to meet with a Promotion Panel consisting of a parent, Co-ordinator/Village Leader and Assistant Principal and provide:

- Portfolio of work they have completed demonstrating their understanding of covered work in all classes.
- A justification for why they should be promoted.

The panel will decide whether the student:

- Is promoted to the following year level; or
- Is retained at the current year level and status to be reviewed during Term 1; or
- Would benefit from transferring to another school or alternative setting.
Course Information

Core Subjects

The Year 8 learning program provides students with a balanced, rigorous and engaging curriculum. All students study the core subjects of Mathematics, English or English EAL, Science, Humanities, Language (Chinese or Italian) and Health & Physical Education for the entire year. Core subjects at Year 8 reflect the relevant AusVELS Curriculum and build upon the essential skills, knowledge and understandings that students have developed in Year 7. Year 8 students study Enhanced Literacy to further develop the essential literacy skills of reading and writing.

Elective Program

Students will have an opportunity to select two electives from the Arts and Technology domains and explore these subjects in depth. Year 8 students will study one elective per semester. Subjects that are offered will only run if a sufficient number of students select the class.

Costs for some Elective Subjects

Parents and students should be aware that some of the electives require payment of a materials cost. These costs can be found beneath the relevant subject descriptions in this handbook. Please note that due to the high demand for places in the Food Technology elective, payment of the materials cost should be made early to secure enrolment.

Explanation of Costs

50% payment (for those electives that incur a cost) is due when the student submits their subject selection form. The balance of the payment is due on confirmation of elective choices. If full payment is not made at this time, the student will be required to select another elective.

AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination)

In 2012, Victoria University Secondary College introduced the AVID elective at Years 8 and 9. AVID is an exciting program that originated in the USA to support students in enhancing their educational outcomes and preparing students for a university education. In 2015 AVID will be running in Years 7 to 12. The AVID elective has a strong emphasis on collaborative problem-solving, inquiry and study skills. Tutors from Victoria University will support students in the AVID elective. Further information about the application process will be provided to students and parents who are interested in AVID.
**Sample Selection Form**

**SAMPLE ONLY: DO NOT SUBMIT THIS SHEET**

**Victoria University Secondary College**

**YEAR 8 ELECTIVE SELECTIONS 2015**

Name: ____________________________  Home Group: ______

In Year 8 you will complete TWO electives (one elective in Semester 1 and one elective in Semester 2).

The following elective subjects are being offered in 2014.

**In this elective selection process you will number your Arts preferences from 1 - 4 and Technology preferences from 1 - 3.**

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<tr>
<th>Arts</th>
<th>Technology</th>
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<td>Drama</td>
<td>Food Technology *$80.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Art</td>
<td>Materials Technology *$40.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Music</td>
<td>Information Technology</td>
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* Materials Cost.
Electives

Arts

Drama
In Drama, students will gain a basic understanding of dramatic performance, from how to structure a scene to developing a character. They will develop performances and the use of expressive skills to bring situations, ideas and characters to life. They will also learn about various pre-modern performance styles and create performances based on these styles and employing their theatrical conventions. They will reflect on their learning, using this to better understand the subject and their progress in it.

General Art
Students explore and experience the creation and making of artworks. Students learn how design elements are used to draw people, animals, places and objects and how to combine these art elements to express and communicate ideas about their world. Students experience a variety of mediums such as pencil, paint, pastel and printing inks and practice techniques thereby improving and broadening skill levels in the use of these materials.

Students research artists and learn to recognise how artists from the past and present use the same art elements, which they themselves are studying to create artworks. Students will access the internet for their research, write and combine data to present a PowerPoint report based on the chosen artists to be studied.

General Music
During their studies, students will experience music in a variety of different ways including performance, active listening, analysing and creating. They will become familiar with practical theory and instruments of the orchestra and apply this understanding to make instruments of their own. They are exposed to a variety of different learning scenarios including performance, presentations, written work and using computer software to create original music and even sound effects to synchronise with film footage. They will evaluate genres of music both past and present.

Visual Communication
At Year 8, students independently and collaboratively, plan, design, make and present works that represent logos and product design. Students will enjoy experimenting with mediums such as pencil, fineliner and watercolour and the ICT programs Gimp and Draw, to develop their skills and techniques in drawing and rendering using appropriate layouts.

Fun activities will include both freehand and instrumental drawing incorporating 2D and 3D concepts and construction. Students will maintain a visual diary of developmental work and research. Students research and analyse designs from past and present in context to the logos they are studying in class.
Technology

Information Technology
Students will focus on the three fundamentals of the course - Information Technology for Visualizing Thinking, Creativity and Communication. The course will include a range of basic skills that are used in many subjects. They will also develop skills in graphics, sound files and animation to produce a major piece of work.

Food Technology ($80.00 per semester)
Food Technology provides students with the knowledge to produce quality products in a safe and hygienic manner. Students will develop skills in the understanding of food selection, processing, properties, preparation and nutrition.

50% payment is due at the time of subject selections to confirm enrolment. The remaining 50% is required on confirmation of elective choices to secure the student's place in the elective.

Materials Technology ($40.00 per semester)
Students will investigate and design models that will be produced through the use of a range of equipment, materials and tools. Materials such as wood, metals or plastic used individually or in combination to produce models. Theoretical parts such as a Client brief and product costings will make up part of the student journal. Students will evaluate their work; both theory and practical, to further expand their knowledge, hand skills and their technology vocabulary and comprehension.

50% payment is due at the time of subject selections to confirm enrolment. The remaining 50% is required on confirmation of elective choices to secure the student's place in the elective.
Notes
Senior Campus
5A Jamieson Street
St Albans Victoria 3021
P 03 8312 0200
F 03 8312 0211

Junior Campus
88 Billingham Road
Deer Park Victoria 3023
P 03 9363 1155
F 03 9363 8681

Trade Training Centre
Cairnlea Campus
Ken Jordan Rd
Cairnlea Victoria 3023

Correspondence To:
PO Box 83
St Albans Victoria 3021
Email victoria.university.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au
www.vusc.vic.edu.au