Welcome

Welcome to Year 9 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 9 students can aspire to achieve.

This handbook contains all of the information that students and their parents need to know about the Year 9 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:

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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
Course Information

Core Subjects
The structure of the Year 9 learning program is designed to provide students with a range of learning experiences and allow students to begin to pursue areas of interest. All students study Mathematics, English or English EAL, Science, Humanities and Health & Physical Education. Core subjects at Year 9 reflect the relevant AusVELS Curriculum and build upon the essential skills, knowledge and understandings that students have developed in Years 7 and 8. Year 9 students study Enhanced Literacy to further develop the essential literacy skills of reading and writing.

Team 9
Team 9 is a unique program created for Year 9 students at Victoria University Secondary College. Team 9 responds to a nationally identified need to engage Year 9 students in authentic and relevant learning opportunities that include a mixture of real world and ‘hands on’ experiences combined with student led inquiry based projects. As part of the Team 9 program, students complete three ‘themes’ that reflect our core college values. Team 9 has been designed to support students’ personal wellbeing, assist in developing career pathways, create awareness of local community issues and to ensure Year 9 students at Victoria University Secondary College strive towards ‘Creating The Future’.

Cost for Team 9
To run this unique program and enable authentic and relevant learning activities, the cost of the Year 9 program is quite high. The majority of the cost is subsidized by grants and donations to the school. However, this does not cover the entire cost.

Students are required to contribute $80.00 to cover the remainder of the costs for the excursions and activities.

Elective Program
In 2015, students will have an opportunity to select two elective subjects, one per semester, and study these subjects in depth. Students will be required to study one elective from either Arts or Technology. The remaining subject choice can be made from any of the electives offered. 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 ‘Multicultural Munching’ elective, payment of the materials cost should be made early to secure enrolment.

Explanation of Costs
Students will be notified as to which elective they have been enrolled into for 2014. 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.
**Selection Process**

Year 9 students will complete ONE elective each semester. Students must complete ONE elective each semester.

One of the student’s selections must be from either the ARTS or TECHNOLOGY Learning Domains. The remaining selection can be from any of the Learning Domains.

Elective subjects offered at Year 9 in 2015:

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<thead>
<tr>
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**Electives**

**Arts**

**Drama**

In Drama, students will explore non-naturalistic theatre through an exploration of pre-modern and modern theatrical styles and conventions. Students will work together to interpret and rehearse a script incorporating non-naturalistic theatrical elements. This study will culminate in a class performance presentation.

**General Art**

Students will use a variety of media for the production of artworks including ICT (Photoshop) to produce artworks. Students will explore the art elements and design principles through colour theory, application of wet and dry media and experimentation in painting and drawing. They will produce a folio of artworks. Students will learn art literacy and utilise art terminology in their written theory. Theory tasks are delivered through written research projects, class discussions, oral presentations and visits to relevant exhibitions. Students study artists from different times in history and analyse artworks in different contexts and exhibition spaces.

**General Music**

Students studying General Music will study a variety of areas of Music. Students will be expected to learn a musical instrument within the context of performing in a small ensemble. Students will also be expected to undertake a level of theoretical knowledge of music including written and aural theory. The subject will also include the exploration of a range of musical styles through listening exercises and an understanding of the use of musical vocabulary in response to listening.

**Visual Communication**

Students will experience the instrumental drawing methods that are applied to product or architectural design. Freehand drawing skills are developed and used to generate ideas for an individual design brief: for example, the surface graphics for a perfume package. The design process is explored resulting in a final presentation. The use of ICT is included in the completion of the design brief. Students will experience the visualization of three-dimensional forms into two dimensions and vice versa. The vocabulary for the analysis and description of visual communications is studied.

**Technology**

**Information Technology**

Students will develop their skills and demonstrate their creativity in a range of projects. They will learn about animation, movie making, audio recording and editing, web page design, game design and computer generated images. This is a self-paced course to allow for a range of abilities and interests.

**Materials Technology**

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.

Materials Cost: $40.00 per semester.

**Multicultural Munching**

Students will explore a range of international cuisines. Students will participate in practical classes to prepare and share food for good health and pleasure. Students will explore eating patterns, the types of food consumed and the skills and equipment needed to prepare the foods.

Materials Cost: $80.00 per semester.

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.

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Languages

Chinese

Students in this course will learn to express themselves and understand others on topics closely related to their own experience and daily life. They will also learn to read and write simple passages in characters about the topics learned. The course will focus on developing the students’ capacity to interact in familiar situations and identify what they hear or read. Throughout the course students will be exposed to aspects of Chinese culture. They will be encouraged to improve their intercultural knowledge and language awareness.

Italian

Students will consolidate the language skills acquired in Year 8, in particular, communicating in Italian using the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. The focus will be on extending grammar knowledge and unrelated language and vocabulary. Students will focus on the lifestyles and traditions of Italy and will gain a greater appreciation of the language and its culture through music, cultural presentations and classic Italian films.

Health and Physical Education

Rugby Codes

Students will learn the skills, knowledge and tactics of three different rugby codes; Touch Football, Rugby Union and Rugby League. The students will undertake theory and skills sessions, video analysis and conditioning programs by accredited coaches, development officers from the Melbourne Rebels, Melbourne Storm and Victorian Touch Football league. This course will offer the students a chance to expand their physical, social and intellectual domains while expanding their knowledge of the rugby codes. The students will be provided with the opportunity to participate in tournaments through their enrolment in this program. These tournaments include: Rugby League 7’s, Rugby Union 10’s and Touch Football State Championships.

Materials Cost: $100.00 per semester. This cost includes enrolment in the VUSC Sports Academy, Rugby Development Program Training top, specialist skill training, Rugby coaching course and strength and conditioning program.

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.

Soccer Development

Students will learn and develop their understanding, knowledge and skills in soccer. The course is set up to cater for students interested in developing their skills further and show interest in coaching or event organization. Students will learn about the rules of the game, origins and players, the key skills of soccer, will acquire a modified coaching certificate, develop skills that can be used across curriculum areas and students will learn how to organise and implement a Year 7 Futsal Tournament.

Materials Cost: $90.00 per semester. This includes enrolment in the VUSC Sports Academy, Soccer Development Program Uniform (Top, Shorts and Socks), specialist skill training, Soccer coaching course and strength and conditioning program.

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.

Sport Leadership and Coaching

This course is for the Sport Enthusiast and a student who wants to make a difference to others through sporting participation. Students will work on the positive roles and responsibilities of a good coach, the importance of being a positive role model and will learn how to organise and coordinate a community fitness activity. The skills students develop in the first part of the course will then lead them into coaching a school team and/or organizing a sporting activity. At the completion of the course, students will receive a Level 1 Certificate in Sport Leadership Award Training. This is a School Sports Victoria recognised certificate that students can use to get employment in an 'Active Afterschool Program.'

Other

Cross Age Tutoring

In this subject students will have the opportunity to work with students from local primary schools to support their learning in a range of ways. This could include participating in reading conferences, developing inquiry and research skills and assisting the students in developing project designs such as models and interactive digital portfolios. Through their participation in cross age tutoring, students will develop their communication and interpersonal skills, build confidence and take responsibility to work independently and in a professional manner.