2027
SUBJECT SELECTION GUIDE

MIDDLE SCHOOL
YEARS 7 & 8

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LEARNING AND TEACHING IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

The Middle School Subject Selection Guide is created to help parents and students understand the requirements and details of studying in Year 7 and 8. Its main purpose is to provide information for students to choose their elective subjects.

If you have any questions about the process, please reach out to the Director of Curriculum - Middle School via email.

LEARNING IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Year 7 and 8 students follow a curriculum made up of core and elective subjects, as well as the BeSPC program, which is specific to the Middle School.

BeSPC is a pastoral-based subject aimed at helping students be the best version of themselves as they progress through their middle schooling.

Enhanced Learning Fundamentals (ELF)
An important component of our English and Maths curriculum is ELF. Enhanced Learning Fundamentals is conducted for the first 30 minutes of learning every morning. Students develop fundamental skills in spelling, grammar, reading and writing. They also enhance the multiplicative thinking and mathematical processing skills during this crucial learning time.

TIMETABLE

The College timetable follows a two-week, ten-day cycle, split into Week A and Week B. The schedule for Week A is different from the schedule for Week B.

CORE SUBJECTS

- English
- HaSS: Humanities and Social Studies
- HPE: Health and Physical Education
- Mathematics
- MVPS: Meaning, Values, Purpose & Spirituality
- Science
- BeSPC

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

A range of elective subjects is offered in Years 7 and 8. The aim is to give students the opportunity to experience different fields of study before making more refined choices in the years to come. In line with this aim, two elective subjects are compulsory for students in Year 7: Japanese and Digital Technologies.

Elective subjects in the Middle School fall into three areas of choice, also called 'lines':

INNOVATION and COMMUNICATION

CREATIVE ARTS

TECHNOLOGIES

HOMEWORK

In the Middle School homework may at times be necessary for students to consolidate learning, or complete assignments. At St Patrick's College we believe developing effective study habits in Middle School will have positive impacts on our students time management and progress.

SCHOOLBOX

Schoolbox is the College's learning management system, enabling teachers to post resources, assignment information, news and other types of information. It also enables parents to access their child's pages, where they can see work requirements, due dates and assessments. Students submit most of their tasks and assessments on Schoolbox. When a teacher assesses your child's work it is recorded on Schoolbox and this essentially becomes a process of continuous reporting.

There is also an email facility, which enables quick contact between teacher, student and parent. Parents also have the option to download the Schoolbox App, which is a more transportable version of Schoolbox.

CONTINUOUS FEEDBACK

As part of our learning and teaching program, students receive written feedback for Common Assessment Tasks and other class tasks throughout the year.

This continuous feedback is available through Schoolbox as a way of keeping staff, students and families updated with the progress of a student's work throughout the year.

INCLUSIVE LEARNING

Our Inclusive Learning Team work with teachers to provide extra support for students, creating Personalised Learning Plans where appropriate. Parents, who think that their child might qualify for support, are advised to contact the Director of Inclusive Learning at the beginning of the school year.

HIGH POTENTIAL, HIGH ACHIEVING & GIFTED STUDENTS

The College coordinates the provision of developmentally appropriate and engaging programs for high potential, high achieving or gifted students. This is achieved through various strategies at a whole school, class and extra-curricular program level. All teachers develop, design and implement differentiated learning programs with deliberate adjustments to content, process, product and learning environment to meet the specific learning needs of high potential and gifted students. St Patrick's College provides extensions in and out of the classroom.

DIFFERENTIATION

At St Patrick's College ALL students are catered for. A variety of learning programs accommodate the range of needs of students. Programs are tailored to Literacy & Numeracy support, and EAL/D (English as an additional language or dialect) students.

AFTER-SCHOOL TUTORING

After school tutoring is offered every Wednesday and Thursday afternoon from 3:30 - 4:30pm. It is held in our St Mary MacKillop Library and is overseen by our teachers. We encourage students to access this option if they struggle to organise their learning time at home, if they need to 'catch up', or if they wish to have a structured place to complete set tasks. Our teachers are there to support, and assist with any questions or instructions that students may need clarified. It is an excellent option to ensure students learn great study habits and get their tasks completed.

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YEAR 7 SUBJECT INFORMATION

SUBJECT SELECTION YEAR 7

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

In Year 7 elective subjects have a duration of one semester:
Semester 1: Terms 1 and 2
Semester 2: Terms 3 and 4

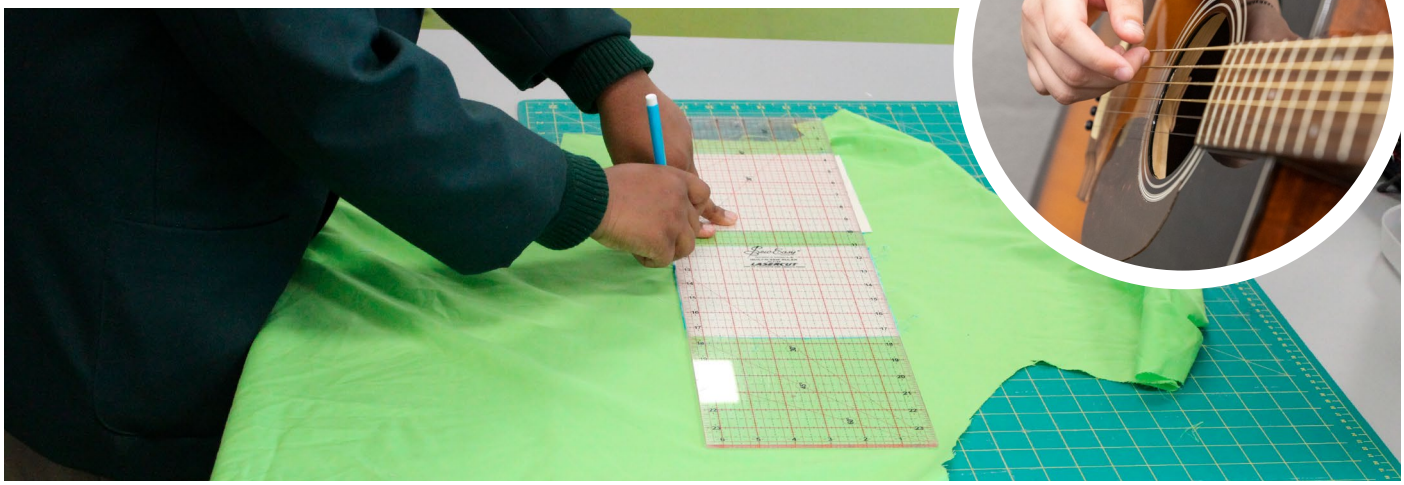
Students must study at least one subject from each line, thus completing courses in Innovation & Communication, Technologies and Creative Arts.

INNOVATION and COMMUNICATION	**Both Digital Technologies and Japanese are in the Innovation and Communication.**
CREATIVE ARTS	**Students MUST Select two (2) subjects from the Creative Arts line.**
TECHNOLOGIES	**Students MUST Select two (2) subjects from the Technologies line.**

Students make their subject selection through a survey, which is shared with parents in Term 3. It is essential that instructions are followed carefully in each section of the survey to ensure it is completed correctly.

YEAR 7 ELECTIVE ORGANISER

INNOVATION and COMMUNICATION	INNOVATION and COMMUNICATION	CREATIVE ARTS	CREATIVE ARTS	TECHNOLOGIES	TECHNOLOGIES
Japanese	Digital Technologies	Student Choice	Student Choice	Student Choice	Student Choice



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INNOVATIONS AND COMMUNICATION

The Innovations and Communication line offers subjects from the Languages curriculum, and subjects with a future oriented, communications focus. These subjects also integrate themes and skills from the Creative Arts and/or Digital Technologies curricula.

Students will study Japanese for one semester and Digital Technologies for one semester. Both subjects are mandated by the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) for all students in the Middle Years.

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM: DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

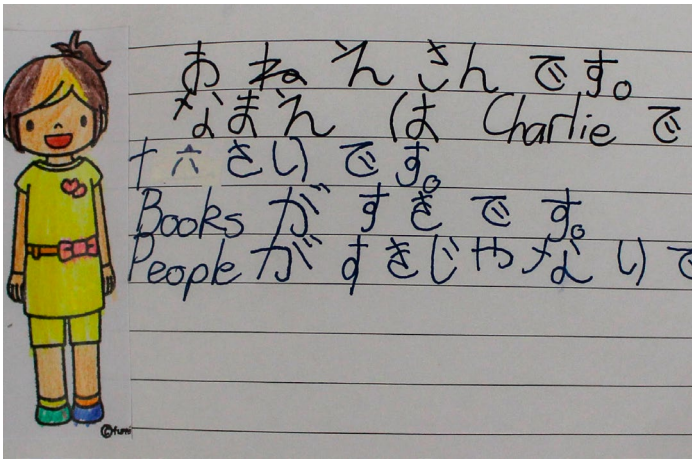
The Digital Technologies course, while based around competencies with ICT, is distinct from Computing Skills. Students create a range of digital solutions and program simulations of relationships between objects in the real world. This is an Australian Curriculum course, which focuses on:

- Developing computer programming skills through the use of web-based software, offline activities, and programming software.
- Furthering understanding and skills in computational thinking and systems thinking.

JAPANESE

The Japanese course provides an introduction to Japan and the Japanese language and culture. The course aims to:

- Teach students to communicate in Japanese using simple words, sentence patterns and the hiragana script.
- Foster a general interest in Japanese culture. Learning about other cultures is based on the communicative approach, which equips students with skills needed to communicate in Japanese.
- Provide students with the foundation for a sustained study of a language that can be followed through from Year 7 to 12.



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CREATIVE ARTS

Students must select two subjects from Creative Arts.

ART

Art aims to give students a general introduction to the visual arts. During the course, students gain familiarity with design principles, which are incorporated into their practical work. The course aims to:

- Teach principles such as shape, form, line, tone, colour, composition, space, and pattern.
- Provide opportunities for experimenting with various art media, with particular emphasis on drawing, painting, and clay work.
- Encourage enthusiasm in, and an appreciation of, each student's creative potential in the visual arts area.

DRAMA

Drama students study mime, poetry, prose, story, improvisation, role-play, character development, and elements of public speaking. Through these practical activities, the course aims to:

- Develop students' confidence in oral skills.
- Enhance students' ability to interpret text.
- Improve dramatic technique.
- Develop public performances skills in a class setting, with an audience.

MUSIC

Students studying Music are encouraged to appreciate the world of music through various activities. The course aims to develop students' music knowledge and skills through three key areas:

- Practical: Students work in small groups on a range of instruments and develop rhythmic skills through percussion activities.
- Technology: Students learn skills required to make music electronically.
- Vocal: Students learn about the benefits of singing and how to care for their voices through exciting and interesting songs.

TECHNOLOGIES

Students must select two subjects from Technologies.

APPLIED TECHNOLOGY

This subject aims to develop students' design and problem-solving skills while also improving dexterity and skills with hand tools. Teachers devise projects using materials such as leather, wood, metal, and plastic. The course aims to:

- Enable students to use a range of materials and technologies in practical projects.
- Emphasise safety with tools and safe workshop procedures.
- Encourage students to design their own projects.

FOOD AND NUTRITION

Food and Nutrition focuses on the preparation of food suitable for nutritious snacks, breakfasts, and lunches. The course aims to:

- Develop students' practical skills in food preparation.
- Focus on basic nutrition.
- Enable students to apply nutritional knowledge to make healthy food decisions.

TEXTILES, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Students investigate fabric as a material and use the technology process to investigate, design, produce, and evaluate. The course aims to:

- Explore a variety of textiles and their uses in the home and environment.
- Enable students to develop practical and artistic skills through simple, selected projects.

If required, refer to the ELECTIVE ORGANISER on page 3.

YEAR 8 SUBJECT INFORMATION

SUBJECT SELECTION YEAR 8

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

In the Middle School there are three elective learning lines. These lines are comprised of significant subjects and disciplines from the Australian Curriculum that are considered essential.

In Year 8, these lines are divided into three distinct options.

Students must study at least one subject from each line, thus completing courses in

- Innovation and Communication
- Creative Arts
- Technologies

Year 8 students may select up to six elective subjects across the year. Choose two subjects from Innovation and Communication (please note that Japanese counts as two subjects). Choose at least one subject from Creative Arts and one subject from Technologies. Students may then choose their remaining two subjects from either Creative Arts and/or Technologies.

INNOVATION and COMMUNICATION

CREATIVE ARTS

TECHNOLOGIES

SUBJECT SELECTION

The Year 7 into 8 Subject Selection – Web Preferences Survey is emailed to students with their individual log in details. The survey opens at the conclusion of the Subject Selection Evening in Term 3 and must be completed by the specified due date. Instructions for the survey will also be available during the evening.

Students are provided with information in class on how to access the survey and subject selection information, including access to the Middle School Subject Selection Handbook online.

When students enter the subject selection survey they will be presented with instructions on how to complete the survey. It is critical that students carefully read the instructions in each section to ensure they complete it correctly.

It is expected that Year 8 subjects selection is done thoughtfully and accurately, as students have been provided with several opportunities to learn about all elective offerings.

YEAR 8 ELECTIVE ORGANISER

INNOVATION and COMMUNICATION		INNOVATION and COMMUNICATION	CREATIVE ARTS	TECHNOLOGIES	STUDENT CHOICE
Semester 1 Japanese *	OR	Choose two (2) subjects	Choose one (1) subject from Creative Arts	Choose one (1) subject from Technologies	Choose two (2) subjects from either Creative Arts and/or Technologies
AND					
Semester 2 Japanese *					

* Japanese must be taken as a year-long subject.

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INNOVATIONS AND COMMUNICATION

JAPANESE

Japanese is a year-long subject, to allow students to deepen their understanding of the Japanese language and culture. The course aims to:

- Teach students to write the (hiragana) script and a range of (kanji) characters.
- Foster an ability to think and reflect about the workings of language and to develop mental flexibility and problem solving-strategies.
- Provide students with the language and intercultural skills to provide a foundation for global communication.

Entry Condition: Year 7 Japanese

3D DIGITAL DESIGN

3D Digital Design extends students beyond basic skill levels acquired in Year 7 and set them up for more advanced study in future years. The course aims to:

- Teach students to use software to create 3D model components for game development, the retail industry, architecture and animations.
- Enable students to gain experience with industry-standard tools such as Blender.
- Provide opportunities to begin exploring housing and design through the use of 3D software.

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM: DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

This Australian Curriculum course focuses on the development of computer programing skills through the use of a number of engaging web-based software, offline activities, and programming software. The course aims to:

- Engage students more broadly with a wider range of information systems as they broaden their experience and involvement in national, regional, and global activities.
- Explore concepts of text-based programing, spreadsheets, embedded systems, and the exciting world of drone technology.

Enable students to build future-focused technological literacy skills so that they can achieve success as technology develops in the future.

Entry Condition: Year 7 Digital Technologies

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS WITH ASIA

The content of this course includes different Asian countries' cultural traditions, including food, art, history, literature, and performance. The course aims to:

- Teach students the ability to interact and engage with different cultures in a respectful and empathetic way.
- Enhance student awareness of Australia's nearest neighbours through creative projects.

MEDIA SKILLS

Media Skills provides an opportunity for students to engage with a range of media skills, understandings and techniques. Students can explore and create with a variety of digital programs used frequently across the media industry. The course aims to:

- Teach students a strong fundamental understanding of Adobe suite programs such as Photoshop and Premiere Pro.
- Enable students to manipulate and edit images as well as create advertisements using digital files. Students will use a range of online media tools to store, transfer, share and create assessment pieces.
- Teach skills in creating stop motion graphics and film using a variety of methods.

SELF-DIRECTED PROJECT

Students have the opportunity to complete an indepth project that involves a specific area of interest and/or passion. Through generating a problem, addressing the issues and providing/developing a solution, students develop a detailed, well-researched project that supports their solution. The course aims to:

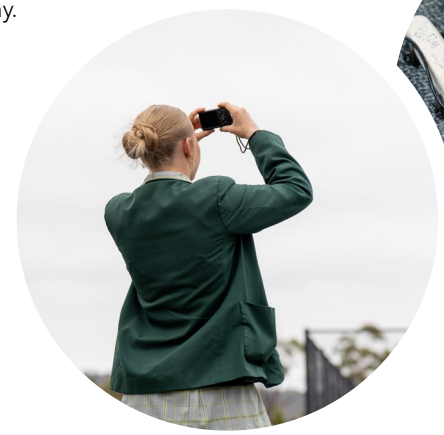
- Enable students to develop the skills to research effectively and efficiently, and to correctly reference and construct a bibliography.
- Teach students the effective use of Artificial Intelligence as a source of information for notes, time management and presentation styles.
- Teach students how to develop inquiry questions.

STEM Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics

STEM provides opportunities for students to develop problem-solving, critical thinking, creativity and logic skills. These skills can be developed and improved through study and practice. The course aims to:

- Teach the building and coding of Lego robots.
- develop design skills, while learning about aerodynamics and friction, through the construction of CO2 cars.
- provide opportunities to compete with peers to design and build the best solar oven.

The skills learnt in STEM can be beneficial in both personal and professional life as the content focuses on the transferable skills of problem-solving, critical thinking, creativity and logic.



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CREATIVE ARTS

*Please note - there are two distinct Art subject offerings. Students can study both subjects if they wish.

ART 2D - Semester 1 Only

2D Art includes exploring the art of comics and graphic novels and the use of text in art, learning and applying techniques to enlarge images, using apps and photo editing techniques to create images. Students look at and discuss the work of First Nations Australians and compare and contrast works of art. The course aims to:

- Continue to develop student skills in painting and drawing.
- Introduce students to printmaking as a means to create works of art and communicate and express their ideas related to how they see themselves and the world around them.
- Enable students to expand their knowledge and application of the elements and principles of art.

ART 3D - Semester 2 Only

3D Art includes exploring Islamic art, animal forms, ceramic slab construction, carving and glazing techniques, paper and cardboard construction. Students look at and discuss the work of First Nations Australians and compare and contrast works of art. The course aims to:

- Focus on sculpture, while drawing remains an integral part of the course.
- Enable students to develop skills within this genre as a means to create works of art and communicate and express ideas related to how they see themselves and the world around them.
- Expand student knowledge and application of the elements and principles of art.

DANCE

Dance caters for both experienced dancers and those wishing to begin dancing. Students learn the three fundamentals of dance: choreographing, performing and analysing dance works (peer and professional). Dance is a practical subject where students have many opportunities to perform in front of their class peers and other performance subject classes. The course aims to:

- Enable students to develop choreographic skills and experiment with many different choreographic devices, such as cannon, repetition and retrograde.
- Cover a range of styles from jazz through to contemporary to provide an introduction to dance.
- Allow students to enhance their performance skills, with particular emphasis on focus, expressive skills and timing.
- Teach students analytical skills when viewing and unpacking professional performances, to be able to apply their knowledge to their own performances.

DRAMA

Mime, poetry, prose, story telling, improvisation, role-play, character development and elements of public speaking make up this course. Drama can also help students to develop the skills they need to become more confident. The course aims to:

- Develop student's performance skills in the areas including - but not limited to - voice, physical expression, stagecraft, design, mime.
- Encourage confidence in oral skills, interpretation of text, dramatic technique and participation in public performances.

MUSIC STUDIES

Students choose an instrument to focus on, with opportunities for solo and small group performance. Instrument choices include the guitar, bass, drums, vocals, or keyboard or a traditional instrument, such as woodwind, brass, or wind instruments. Students also explore various styles and genres of music from different historical periods and cultural contexts, listening to and analysing a range of musical works from different genres, styles, and cultures. The course aims to:

- Develop critical listening skills and an ability to articulate responses and interpretations.
- Further foundational knowledge of music theory.
- Teach performance skills, composing and arranging, applications of music technology, and music appreciation through analysis.

MUSIC TECHNOLOGIES

Students develop skills and knowledge related to using technology in music production and composition. This includes a specific focus on shifting from beginner Digital Audio Workstations, such as Soundtrap, to more advanced options like Logic. Students also learn a contemporary instrument, such as guitar, keyboard, bass or drums, to round out their production skills. The course aims to:

- Develop student skills in using DAWs for recording, editing, and mixing music, including the integration of MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface).
- Teach recording techniques and develop skills in editing audio recordings.
- Enable students to explore the creation of sound effects and synthesiser patches using software instruments and plugins.

MUSICAL THEATRE

Musical Theatre focuses on the development of musical theatre skills, ensemble performance skills, behind the scenes of musical theatre productions, understanding and responding to text or music and presenting polished musical theatre performances, all relevant to specific roles in a musical theatre production. The course aims to:

- Increase student knowledge of design elements for musical theatre productions including costume, make up, set and poster design.
- Teach performance skills in drama, dance and music.
- Developing student understanding of the characteristics of Musical Theatre, and the genre, style and thematic context of a performance.

TECHNOLOGIES

APPLIED TECHNOLOGY

This practical subject provides opportunities to use a range of materials and technologies. Students use hand tools and new technologies such as a laser cutter, to design and make creative and useful objects. The course aims to:

- Develop design problem-solving skills.
- Teach basic design principles of engineering structures such as how to make a structure strong and durable.

DESIGN GRAPHICS

Learn about the world of architectural design and design features, including interesting and fun facts about house design. Logo design and the art of visual storytelling to create memorable and recognisable brands are included in this course. The course aims to:

- Enable students to hone graphic design skills
- Provide opportunities to explore and learn skills to draw basic house plans and architectural drawings.

DESIGN IN METAL

Cut, shape, drill, join and manipulate different types of metals to make some useful projects, and learn about metal and where it comes from.The course aims to:

- Develop basic skills to use tools that are specific to metalwork and how to do this safely.
- Teach students how to identify types of metal and their uses.

DESIGN IN WOOD

Learn how to make useful projects that you can keep, and learn about the types of timbers and the story behind them. The course aims to:

- Develop new skills with basic hand tools, equipment, and some emerging technologies to cut, shape, and join timber.
- Teach an understanding of timber, its characteristics, and its uses.

FOOD AND NUTRITION

Students prepare nutritious snacks, breakfasts, and lunches, while learning about basic nutrition and how to apply this knowledge to make good food choices. The course aims to:

- Teach basic nutritional skills
- Develop students practical skills related to preparing meals.

TEXTILES, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Working with textiles is a practical course that provides opportunities to create useful projects. Students gain valuable insights into various materials, equipment, and sustainability concerns, providing insight into a range of potential career paths. The course aims to:

- Teach students to identify suitable fabrics for different projects, and how to follow a commercial pattern, make a simple garment, and craft projects.
- Teach students how to use a sewing machine and overlocker.

If required, refer to the ELECTIVE ORGANISER on page 7.

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