



**Junior School
Handbook
Year 9
2020**

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JUNIOR SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

Mirboo North Secondary College utilises a seven to nine sub school structure designed to best meet the educational needs of students in our community. In junior school one of our guiding principles is our desire to foster independent citizens and learners who take personal responsibility for both their learning and behaviour. Students with the confidence, knowledge and skills to embrace the full range of educational opportunities offered and select those suited to their individual needs are best equipped to succeed in whatever path they choose for their post-compulsory education. The junior school structure has been designed with these considerations in mind. The elective units selected over this time allow students to develop a passion and foster an engagement in learning together with the independence of working with and establishing different groups of peers in a range of classes.

In the early years it is important to foster strong student teacher relationships to help students feel confident in their learning. Our year 7 program aims to smoothly transition students from all different schools and connect with staff and students to develop and maintain meaningful relationships. Our Year 8 course aims to consolidate our year 7 program and introduce students to taking part in elective units that suit their passion.

Independence, responsibility and enquiry are the focus of our Year 9 City Experience camp, a camp which sees the students confidently negotiating Melbourne's transport system in small groups. Such skills prove invaluable if students wish to take part in higher education in Melbourne, after their secondary education concludes.

Assessment and Reporting Policy

The current reporting Policy is based on the following program.

Mirboo North SC provides a range of informal and formal methods of feedback to assist students to monitor their progress and determine their levels of achievement. Informal feedback is usually provided direct to the student in class. It provides advice and support about particular items of classwork, assessment items or new concepts.

Student reports provide a permanent record of the student's progress or achievements. In addition parent teacher interviews provide an opportunity for discussion with students and parents/carers in a formal scheduled interview.

Report Formats:

1. Learning Habit Reports
Provide feedback to students and parents about the student's approach to their learning. Notes on how to interpret learning habits are provided through Compass.
2. Learning Task Feedback
Provides feedback on the level of achievement by the student on specific assessment items such as: Tests, Essays, Assignments and Portfolios. Additional advice to students on areas to improve or methods to employ to improve the student's results.
3. Student/Parent/Teacher Interviews
An opportunity for students and parents to discuss the student's approach to learning, levels of achievement and progress.
4. End of Semester Reports
A summative report that covers the entire semester's work. Years 7 -10 include Victorian Curriculum levels and percentage scores on assessment tasks completed for each subject. Year 11 & 12 reports give an S or N in VCE outcomes and an overall subject result.

Feedback is given continuously throughout the semester via compass.

Report Timeline:	
Learning Habit Reports	3 per Semester
Learning Task Feedback	Minimum of 2 per Semester
Student/Parent/Teacher Interviews	End of Term 1 & 3
End of Semester Reports	End of Terms 2 & 4

Health & Safety

The safety of students is of prime concern to all teachers and instruction in the safe and correct use of tools and equipment is stressed at the beginning of units of work and each time a new tool or piece of equipment is to be used.

The safety of students will also be enforced by stricter disciplinary procedures in classes where tools and equipment are used. If a student acts in a dangerous manner when using tools then the student will be removed from class and sent to a co-ordinator or assistant principal. If a student continues to jeopardise his or her safety or the safety of others, then they may be excluded from that class.

Subject Levy

Please consider the subject levy fees carefully when choosing subjects. The levy is identified under each subject descriptor. The fees are to be paid by the first class of the subject in question.

School Policies

For a more extensive list of school policies please visit the college's website.

Year 9

CORE STUDIES

Students continue to develop and learn essential core skills that will help them to achieve their goals in the future.

Core subjects include:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Health
- Humanities
- Sport
- Community Challenge

Community Challenge

Community Challenge utilises real world learning that help students develop employability skills for the future. These skills include organisation, time management, communication, decision making and teamwork.

Students first gain a perspective into physical pursuits such as bush hiking, surfing and personal training etc. Students also build and foster new peer relationships that are supported through an array of team building and bonding activities.

Community Challenge hopes to not only enrich our students lives by entering the local community. But also utilise the Melbourne City Centre camp to help better understand the multicultural society we live in, as well as exposing students to a range of marginalised groups within our society.

The second half of the year students give back to the community by volunteering their time through a variety of pre-developed school and community channels such as Landcare and Scope.

Students are asked to discuss and explain their learning through a 'Round Table Discussion' format which utilise the question techniques of members from the community, senior school students and teaching staff. Year nine students thoroughly prepare for these discussions that reflect a job interview process.

Students have the opportunity to complete a range of certificates and qualification over the course of year 9 including the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award, Scope Young Ambassador award, Advance award, Mental Health and First Aid certificates.

Mathematics

Year nine Mathematics is ability grouped so students can work at a level that reflects their skills and continue to grow and develop essential learning. Ability grouping is subject to teacher's judgement.

ELECTIVE UNITS

Considerations when choosing year nine elective units:

- Students must choose four elective units along with two alternative preferences.
- German is offered as an elective and is undertaken for the whole year. With this in mind students selecting German, must choose German 1 & German 2, plus two other elective choices.
- Elective units run based on student selection. If not enough students elect to do a subject it will not run for the following year. However, if a large volume of student's elect to do the same subject the school will endeavour to run multiple classes.
- Please consider the subject levy fees carefully when choosing subjects. The levy is identified under each subject descriptor. The fees are to be paid by the first class of the subject in question.

Year 9 Elective – German 1

Schedule & Duration: Semester 1

Subject levy: NA

This unit will continue on from year 8 German. Students will consolidate skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing and extend their ability to express themselves more comprehensively over a range of everyday activities. Cultural knowledge will be expanded throughout the unit. Students are also asked to submit their application for our sister-school exchange program.

Year 9 Elective – German 2 - Play

Schedule & Duration: Semester 2

Subject levy: NA

This unit will follow on from German 1 and will seek to enhance skills already acquired across listening, speaking, reading and writing. More performance activities will be required, one being the Play Performance at Club Astoria in Morwell. Students choose the play, write the script, organise props, rehearse and direct independently.

Year 9 Elective – Intro to Furniture Making

Duration: Semester

Subject levy: \$80.00

This unit will allow students to develop an understanding and appreciation of the characteristics and uses of common timbers. The project will involve the design and construction of a table and will allow students the opportunity to focus on a variety of decoration and assembly techniques.

Course: Work will be practical in nature and allow for a variety of abilities and experience in the students.

Tools & Equipment Used: Electric drill, jigsaw, drill press, disc sander, biscuit joiner and assorted hand tools.

Year 9 Elective – International Cookery

Duration: Semester

Subject levy: \$75.00

This unit enables students to develop their technical skills whilst discovering food culture from a range of countries. Students will have the opportunity to sample and prepare a variety of foods and to learn different cooking techniques from around the world. Foods will be assessed for taste, appearance and nutritional value.

Year 9 Elective – Music

Duration: Semester

Subject levy: \$10.00

This Unit is designed to encourage students to explore their creativity in music. They will build on skills and knowledge introduced to them in year 7 through Project Based Learning activities that link in with our local community where possible, and integrate the use of the I pads and several online programs, encouraging digital literacy. There will also be practical activities such as learning a second instrument.

Year 9 Elective – PE for Active Life

Duration: Semester

Subject levy: NA

This unit introduces the students to a range of coaching practices and their effective contribution to improved athlete performance. Students will participate in a range of sports and activities with a focus on skill development. Students will investigate the role that physical activity plays in the health and wellbeing of the population, and the benefits and consequences across the lifespan of an individual.

Year 9 Elective – PE for Boys

Duration: Semester

Subject levy: NA

This unit has been designed to develop a range of skills through game situations. Boys appreciate the chance to interact in an all-male environment therefore the practical component will encompass various football codes such as AFL, Gaelic, Soccer, Touch, Rugby and American football. Theoretical components will include issues concerning males in sport, health and fitness in the community and involvement in the primary school's sport program.

Year 9 Elective – PE for Girls

Duration: Semester

Subject levy: NA

This unit has been designed to provide young women the opportunity to improve their health and fitness while becoming more active in a supportive environment.

Practical activities will be selected from gymnastics, aerobics, dance, various ball sports, and low impact fitness activities. The theoretical component will examine issues including body image, female health, women in sport and the media, women's fitness and nutritional needs within the community.

Year 9 Elective – Performing Arts

Duration: Semester

Subject levy: \$10.00

This elective is aimed at students interested in the dramatic arts, namely improvisation, body control & movement, role-play, script work and play building. The main focus of this unit for the student is the devising, writing and construction of their own play, which is performed near the end of the semester. It is a whole class activity and takes mature commitment to ensure its success. This elective encourages students to work together in both small groups and as a whole class to present a range of performances for a variety of audiences. Research is undertaken into different styles of drama from the past and present. Skills in basic stagecraft are also covered.

Year 9 Elective – Visual Art & Design

Duration: Semester

Subject levy: \$30.00

This unit expands and reinforces student knowledge of the basic structural elements of Art and

Design through a wide range of media. Students will continue to develop their skills in traditional and digital media whilst completing a progressive program based around the various elements and principles of design. Emphasis is placed on student knowledge of the techniques and processes covered as well as developing creative, critical and reflective thinking skills when analysing their own processes and those of professional artists and designers.

During the semester students will develop responses to design briefs given and these will be based on themes and studio/design disciplines in 3D and 2D formats.

Year 9 Elective Units

SELECTION FORM 2020

STUDENT NAME.....FORM.....

STUDENTS **S**SELECTING **G**GERMAN

YES I am continuing with German in Year 9.

Please note students who select German will be enrolled in both German 1 & 2 and will only complete **two other elective units for the year. Please list your subjects in order of preference in the space provided.*

PREFERENCE ORDER	ELECTIVE UNIT
1.	GERMAN 1
2.	GERMAN 2 – PLAY
3.	
4.	
Alternative preference 1	
Alternative preference 2	

STUDENTS **NO**T **S**SELECTING **G**GERMAN

Please list your subjects in order of preference in the space provided.

PREFERENCE ORDER	ELECTIVE UNIT
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
Alternative preference 1	
Alternative preference 2	

Parent / Guardian signature: _____ Student signature: _____

Selection form Due Date: