



ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE GEELONG

YEAR 8

SUBJECT HANDBOOK 2019



COMPASSION

INNOVATION

INTEGRITY

CURRICULUM

St Joseph's College Geelong provides the opportunity for all students to participate in a broad, innovative and well-balanced curriculum based on the nine Learning Areas.

These are: Religious Education, The Arts, English, Health and Physical Education, Languages - Italian and Chinese, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, Technology – Digital, Materials and Systems.

All teaching and learning is delivered in an environment where the welfare of each student is paramount. Every student is given the opportunity to experience success and achieve their potential.

PROJECT-BASED LEARNING

The introduction of Project Based Learning (PBL) is an innovation that has made St. Joseph's College's approach to instruction unique in the Geelong area. PBL is the educational approach from Year 7-10. PBL is incorporated into the core subjects of English, Humanities, RE, Science and Health/PE as well as extension into other subject areas and electives. PBL is a teaching method in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to a complex question, problem or challenge. Students engage in rigorous projects within discreet disciplines and at times integrated with other subject areas. PBL projects follow the Victorian Curriculum achievement standards with a focus on challenging students to investigate curriculum that has a real world connection. Students develop Enterprise skills in critical and creative thinking, technology use, collaboration, presentation skills, investigation and communication in order to create rigorous and authentic learning products. Year 8 students will mainly be based in the new Project Based Learning Centre and will have the added benefits of team teaching within most teaching areas.

HOMEWORK

Homework allows students to consolidate their learning from classes, establish patterns of behaviour which prepare students for their senior years of education and allows parents to participate in their son's learning. Students should aim for a balance to allow for family, sport and cultural events.

As a guide, students should allow time for completing homework and for revising the learning from the day. The recommended time for Year 8 is approximately 5 hours a week.

ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

At St Joseph's College, we use an intranet system called SIMON. The Parent Access Module (PAM) is used to report all assessment tasks.

When teachers assess student work, they write their comments onto the system. Parents are then able to access this information using the PAM. Parents are sent log-in details and a password and are able to access this information at any time.

This system provides immediate feedback to families. It is supplemented by a term report and a summary of results at the end of semester. All of these are available online.

Biannual progress interviews for students and parents occur in Term 1 and Term 3.

SUBJECT LEVY

Most units of study will be covered by a standard levy charge. Some units, which involve off-campus activities or expensive resources, are costed individually and charged to fee accounts.

STUDENTS WHO REQUIRE EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

Educational Support Services exist to address the learning needs of any student facing individual challenges. The goal of the Educational Support Services team is to work collaboratively with teaching staff to provide a learning setting that acknowledges and supports individual needs through focused and targeted teaching.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Students in Year 8 will continue to experience a range of subjects from each of the Learning Areas, building on the Year 7 program. Students will undertake core subjects, as well as having the opportunity to select subjects of their own choice from The Arts and Technology areas.

SUBJECTS STUDIED IN YEAR 8 ARE:

- Religious Education
- English
- Mathematics
- Digital Technology
- Humanities
- Science
- Physical Education
- Language - Chinese or Italian
- The Arts
- Technology

FOR YEAR 8 STUDENTS, THE FOLLOWING CHOICES NEED TO BE MADE:

- Students select a language: Either Chinese or Italian.
- Students select 2 semester units from The Arts and one semester unit from Technologies.

YEAR 8 OVERVIEW

Semester One	Religious Education	Health & PE	English	Maths	Science	Humanities	Languages	The Arts or Technology	The Arts or Technology
Semester Two	Religious Education	Health & PE	English	Maths	Science	Humanities	Languages	The Arts or Technology	The Arts or Technology

SUBJECTS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

At Year 8, students are introduced to Problem Based Learning, which enriches learning through an exploration of Religious Education as it sits within our world. The projects are built on the Catholic Social Teachings and the four touchstones of Edmund Rice Education Australia. The students explore the call to action delivered to each and every human being in response to the needs of “the other”.

Year 8 Religious Education projects are:

- Call to Action,
- One Humanity Shared Responsibility,
- Living A Christian Life; and
- Rituals, Traditions and Customs.

ENGLISH

ENGLISH

In Semester 1, students develop their creative writing skills by investigating and applying poetic devices in their own work. They produce several creative responses including a folio of writing and a character monologue. Students explore the idea of reality television and assess the ways in which this can be manipulated and altered for effect, through their novel study of *The Hunger Games*.

In Semester 2, students expand their understanding of the purpose and characteristics of persuasive writing by studying a variety of text types. They explore advertising with a focus on the persuasive devices of ethos, pathos and logos. Students examine the themes of leadership and teamwork through their study of *Tomorrow, When the War Began* and compare these ideas with real world examples.

EXTRA ENGLISH

Upon the recommendation of Year 7 English teachers, students may undertake Extra English in addition to their mainstream English class, to develop and consolidate essential literacy skills. Throughout the year, students write descriptively, create visual texts and analyse a variety of text types. Furthermore, students participate in the Levelled Literacy Intervention program in small groups to develop reading and comprehension skills.

MATHEMATICS

In Mathematics, students continue to build on the foundation laid in Year 7.

Topics covered include whole number, fractions, percentages and decimals, Algebra, Measurement and Graphing. Students explore these topics in basic skills exercises and problem solving activities. Skills are assessed through a combination of tests, online quizzes, analysis tasks and projects.

At Year 8, students are introduced to problem based approaches to Mathematics, which enrich learning through an exploration of mathematics in our world and develop students’ ability to work with their peers to solve mathematical problems.

Students will be in Homeroom groups for Mathematics in Year 8.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Health and Physical Education focuses on students enhancing their own and others' health, safety, wellbeing and physical activity participation in varied and changing contexts. Research in fields such as sociology, physiology, nutrition, biomechanics and psychology informs what we understand about healthy, safe and active choices. Health and Physical Education offers students an experiential curriculum that is contemporary, relevant, challenging, enjoyable and physically active.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education is the learning area in the curriculum that focuses explicitly on developing movement skills and concepts students require to participate in physical activities with competence and confidence. The knowledge, understanding, skills and dispositions students develop through movement in Physical Education encourage ongoing participation across their lifespan and in turn lead to positive health outcomes. Movement competence and confidence is seen as an important personal and community asset to be developed, refined and valued.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Using the Project Based Learning (PBL) model, health education builds upon the skills developed in physical education to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to strengthen their sense of self, and build and manage satisfying relationships. The curriculum helps them to be resilient, and to make decisions and take actions to promote their health, safety and physical activity participation. Students develop and use critical inquiry skills to research and analyse health information and understand the influences on their own and others' health, safety and wellbeing. They also learn to use resources for the benefit of themselves and for the communities with which they identify and to which they belong.

HUMANITIES

The Humanities program examines the areas of History, Geography and Civics & Commerce. The History unit concentrates on the Medieval period of History, with depth studies in Medieval Europe, The Black Death and Feudal Japan. In Term three, Geography includes a focus on geographical concepts and World Heritage sites. The Civics and Commerce unit in Term four, introduces students to Australia's political and economic system. Students complete a range of tasks that develop skills in analysis, research, presentation skills and collaboration.

LANGUAGES

ITALIAN

Italian in Year 8 is designed to consolidate work from Year 7 and to expand students' knowledge and skills in Italian. For successful communication, the four key skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening will continue to be developed in class. Each topic studied is designed with engaging and practical activities. Students will learn about the historical and cultural importance of the Commedia dell'arte and Italian Carnivals.

The Semester 2 topics will allow students to continue to fine-tune the four key language skills. Students will learn new vocabulary on different topic areas based on Italian lifestyle, Italian gastronomy and culture. Students will also be able to ask and answer questions, typical of their peers in Italy - "What will I wear?" "What sports do you like?" "What are you doing after school?"

CHINESE

Chinese in Year 8 is designed to consolidate work from Year 7 and to expand students' knowledge and skills in Chinese. Language awareness will be developed in class through engaging activities, topics and tasks. Different aspects of Chinese culture are explored and students will learn how to exchange information about their family, friends and school.

In Semester 2 students explore school life and everyday routines in China and compare this to their own lives. With their accumulated knowledge of vocabulary and structures, students will feel more comfortable with writing and reading Chinese characters, eventually enabling them to write short paragraphs about themselves and their world.

SCIENCE

Science is a year-long subject that is undertaken for seven periods per fortnight in specialist classrooms.

Students will continue to focus on essential questions, design investigations and perform experiments, as well as developing their literacy and numeracy. Science is a skill-based subject developing students' analytical skills including observing, measuring, researching, decision making and communicating through the use of an inquiry-based, hands-on approach.

Units of work in Year 8 include *Cell of Duty* where students explore the building blocks of life, the function and structure of different cells; and the roles of the different body systems such as the digestive and circulatory systems and present this as an exhibition. *The Nature of Matter* unit investigates four states of matter and their physical and chemical properties. Students look at these changes by having fun with sticky syrups and chocolate and presenting their own investigated reaction as a poster! Another unit *Let's Get Rocked* explores the cycle of rocks, crystals and minerals and the Australian mining industry. Using technology, students will communicate their understandings by creating a Sway.

SEMESTER SUBJECTS

TECHNOLOGIES – DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGIES

FOOD STUDIES

In this semester students investigate the importance of food focusing on the role of a healthy, balanced diet. Students develop decision making skills associated with healthy food choices and explore eating well for greater wellbeing. Many different food preparation processes are introduced to students from recipe basics to meal planning. Throughout the semester, students develop safe and hygienic work practices. This course has a practical component and assessment is based on skill development, creativity, research and the application of the design process. This unit is ideal preparation for Year 9 Focus on Food Studies.

PRODUCT DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY INTRODUCTION – MATERIALS - WOOD

Designing and making products is challenging and rewarding. This is the introductory unit in which students learn an array of skills and knowledge to prepare for later units. The emphasis is on design and students spend the first six weeks composing and developing a design folio. Students then apply their design to a practical project. This in turn allows them to learn the appropriate techniques and technologies to successfully execute their individual designs in the material of wood. Students learn to take appropriate safety precautions when using tools, equipment and machines. This unit of work has a practical component. Assessment is based on research, skill development, creativity and evaluating the effectiveness of the products constructed. This unit is excellent preparation for Year 9 and Year 10 Design and Technology (Intermediate levels).

TECHNOLOGIES - DIGITAL

SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY (ALL SYSTEMS ARE GO)

This unit introduces students to the importance of systems in everyday life. It gives students hands on experience with both mechanical and electronic systems. Students use circuit boards and components, as well as Lego to solve a range of practical problems. They will demonstrate how mechanical systems can produce various types of movement and alter the strength of applied forces. In the electrical/electronic section, students learn about electricity and how it can be manipulated by using electronic components such as resistors, capacitors, transistors and diodes. This unit is preparation for Robotics in Action as well as VCE Systems Engineering.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (THRIVING IN AN I.T. AGE)

Compulsory for one Semester

We are using information technology more than ever. The internet and technology has become a thoroughly integrated part of our everyday lives. In this subject students will learn to harness technology to become a creator rather than a user. Students will design and create a web page solution for both mobile and desktop. They investigate and learn how the components involved in home and larger networks, such as the internet, work to allow communication. Students research how to protect themselves online from hackers, viruses and malware. They investigate how software is made and solve simple problems by programming using visual and code based programming environments.

The unit is compulsory for Year 8 students and will be conducted for 3 periods per week for one semester. This unit is preparation for any of the ICT units that are chosen by students in Year 9 or Year 10 as well as VCE.

THE ARTS – PERFORMING ARTS

DRAMA (PHYSICAL THEATRE)

Do you want to improve your balance and manipulation skills? Try juggling, stilt walking, pois, the rola bola or magic tricks. Explore different aspects of comedy, telling stories and performance. Develop your own routines suitable for street theatre or “Australia you’ve got Talent”. Stagecraft elements will be introduced and explored in this unit. Students study past and present comic actors and learn about vaudeville, slapstick and mime.

MUSIC PERFORMANCE Semester 1 Only

Would you like the opportunity to play and create music in a fun ensemble using the whole range of instruments? If you would like to further your skills in Woodwind, Brass, Percussion, Strings, Guitar, Bass and Keyboard instruments – this is the unit for you. The unit is designed for boys who have completed the Year 7 program and who enjoy the practical aspect of music. It is expected that boys will continue with the instrument that they already learn and are encouraged to enrol for instrumental lessons. Students rehearse as a class ensemble, learning pieces for percussion ensemble and instrumental groups, ranging in style from traditional African drumming to modern twenty first century arrangements for concert band. There will be a number of performance opportunities available at Concerts, Festivals, Music Tours, and various school performances. As well as the practical side of music, this unit provides opportunities to study music theory, aural skills, composition, using computer generated programmes, critical listening and music analysis. Styles such as Jazz, Blues, Rock, Pop and Metal music will be studied and performed.

MUSIC INDUSTRY Semester 2 Only

This unit is designed to provide a broad range of experiences that are available in the popular and contemporary music industry. Students will be introduced to multiple facets of the music industry, including: effective rehearsal techniques, performing as a soloist and as a member of a group, such as in the rock/pop genre and using technology designed to enhance live and recorded music. Students will also learn the music theory skills required to compose their own music and improvise on their instrument (a range of software and ICT will be used to further enhance these skills). This unit is suitable for students who have some form of experience on a musical instrument including voice, guitar, drums, bass and concert band instruments.

THE ARTS – VISUAL ARTS

STUDIO ARTS 2D (COLOUR EXPLOSION)

If you would like to add some colour into your timetable, then this is the unit for you. Students explore a studio process using a variety of 2D art forms, all resulting in colour and fun. Students begin by developing their drawing skills and experimenting with a wide range of mediums. They use these skills to then create a mixed-media drawing from still life. They also produce an acrylic painting on canvas that is inspired by the art movement, Impressionism. This really is an enjoyable and rewarding artwork to create. Students also spend time creating a **reduction** lino cut that **focuses on form, line and repetition**. This is an engaging unit for any student wanting to learn new skills in a creative environment.

STUDIO ARTS 3D (SCULPTURE AND CULTURE)

This is a hands on unit that explores the studio process and different 3D art materials in a fun and engaging way. Students have the fabulous challenge of creating a prehistoric or futuristic bug from found objects and recyclable materials. They also have the opportunity to create a fire-breathing dragon with clay, bringing it to life with coloured underglazes. Lastly, students are able to carve a nature-inspired design into a piece of sandstone, using files, hammers and chisels - great skills to learn! If you love making sculptures, this unit is for you.

MEDIA ARTS

The media plays an enormous role in our lives. It connects us to friends and family, and to events all around the world. And no longer do we just consume it at home. We carry devices everywhere, consuming and creating content as we go. As an introduction to Media Arts students will explore:

- Where, when and how we consume media (passively or actively)
- The extent to which media influences our emotions and beliefs
- The Action genre. As a film study, students watch an action film and deconstruct it in terms of plot, locations, music, dialogue, etc. Students then use that knowledge to plan, shoot and edit their own short action sequence.

VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN (DRAWING & DESIGN)

Have fun creating and delving deeper into the world of line, shape, tone, texture, typography and form. Students will create characters from basic shapes and objects and then bring them to life by scanning and using computer programs Illustrator and Photoshop to make them 'jump off the page'. They will create scenes through the rules of perspective and by rendering using the design elements. Students sharpen their observation and stretch their imagination in drawing and designing. Learn more about the programs that make drawing easy and professional. The aim of this unit is to give students a solid grounding in the basics of Visual Communication Design and the Design Process.

VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN (ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN)

This unit introduces students to the three fields of design – communication, industrial and environmental. Students tap into their creativity, have fun manipulating text, and then apply this to creative advertising. They will learn how easy this is when using both Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator. Looking into environmental and industrial design, students follow a theme to create their own bus shelter design. In an introduction to SketchUP and model making, they create their design as a 3D model. They will also learn the basics of the of third angle orthogonal drawing system, the basis of industrial design applications. The aim of this unit is to give students a solid grounding in the basics of Visual Communication Design and the Design Process.

YEAR 8 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW 2019

Religious Education	English	Mathematics	Health & Physical Education	Humanities
▶ Religious Education	▶ English	▶ General Mathematics	▶ Physical Education	▶ Humanities
Languages	Science	Technologies	The Arts	
▶ Chinese (Y) ▶ Italian (Y)	▶ General science	▶ Food studies (S) ▶ Design & Technologies (Introduction to Wood) (S) ▶ All Systems Are Go (S) <i>Compulsory</i> ▶ Surviving in an IT Age (S)	▶ Drama Physical Theatre (S) ▶ Music Performance (S) ▶ Music Industry (S) ▶ Studio Arts 2D (Colour Explosion) (S) ▶ Studio Arts 3D (Sculpture & Culture) (S) ▶ Media Arts (S) ▶ Vis Com Drawing & Design (S) ▶ Vis Com Industrial Design (S)	

(S) Indicates semester units. (Y) Indicates electives that are studied year long

***These subjects can only be studied on the recommendation of teachers.**



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St Joseph's College is proud to be a part of:



**EDMUND RICE EDUCATION
AUSTRALIA**



Liberating
Education



Justice &
Solidarity



Gospel
Spirituality



Inclusive
Community

These four Touchstones are fundamental in our Commitment to being a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition, and are a living reality in our Community.

We acknowledge that we are educating on the traditional land of the Wadawurrung people and honour and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.