



# YEAR 8 HANDBOOK 2019

A GUIDE TO SUBJECTS AND PROGRAMS  
AT THE MERCY CAMPUS



ST JOSEPH'S  
COLLEGE MILDURA

**LEARNING  
FOR LIFE**



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## IT ALL BEGAN IN 2015

St Joseph's College is excited to be leading the Mercy Campus Year 8 Program into its fifth year. Our current Year 8 students have risen and met given challenges and will proceed into Year 9 confident in their ability to learn and with knowledge that will scaffold their futures.

The Mercy Campus staff are excited to offer students the same opportunity to grow and develop, especially through the integrated curriculum that was introduced in 2016 and will continue into 2019. This approach to their studies will develop 21st century skills in real world applications.

### VISION

Through our motto 'Learning for Life', the Year 8 Mercy Campus program is committed to educating the whole person. This is underpinned by our Catholic ethos.

Our program at the Mercy Campus:

- Enhances a sense of community
- Develops resilience and self-awareness
- Builds teamwork and collaboration
- Encourages independence
- Establishes good citizenship
- Connects students to their spirituality

*Marcus Parker*

Head of Mercy Campus

JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

STADIUM



# MOTTO

## WHAT WILL A SEPARATE AND SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE YEAR 8 STUDENTS PROVIDE?

1. It will provide an alternative educational dimension for the Year 8 group of students. Our data supports the notion that Year 8 is a year level that is affected by more students being disengaged and we see Year 8 as effectively the new Year 9. The impact of social media is becoming increasingly more profound at younger ages.
2. The curriculum has been designed, constructed and will be delivered by a core team based at the Mercy Campus, with a focus on differentiated and authentic learning. The team will incorporate technology and will use traditional classrooms as well as open learning spaces, with creative use of learning environments to allow for flexibility and mobility whilst ensuring that academic rigor remains at the highest standard.
3. Students will be encouraged to make critical decisions when given the opportunity.
4. One of the aims is to ensure that we work towards building an active and thriving community. By fostering relationships between students, teachers and parents that help promote community and connectedness through a shared sense of purposeful and meaningful learning. At the Mercy Campus we will endeavour to provide avenues where students can express their creativity, challenge and support for each other's ideas, and importantly, promote ownership and responsibility for their school.
5. We will focus on developing students who:
  - Are independent, self-aware learners who set goals and who reflect on and evaluate their own progress (Excellent preparation for VO where there is great choice of units of work).
  - Are confident to take risks with, and responsibility for their own learning.
  - Pose critical questions about their world and can use traditional, online and community resources to develop responses.
  - Work co-operatively to complete a variety of tasks with teams of peers.
  - Are socially aware, ethical and caring global citizens.
  - Are connected to fellow students, staff and the College and see themselves as members of a St Joseph's College learning community. We see this as being very important....that students stay connected to the College through a range of initiatives that provide genuine links to all aspects of College life.

## STAFF AT THE YEAR 8 CAMPUS

Marcus Parker Head of Mercy Campus [mparker@sjcmda.vic.edu.au](mailto:mparker@sjcmda.vic.edu.au)

Students at the Mercy Campus are placed into a Pastoral Care Group for the duration of their year at the Mercy Campus. This group will act in much the same way as their Homeroom at the Enright Campus but will have the added benefit of operating as their class for the majority of their subjects during the year. The teacher in charge of the Pastoral Care Group will teach predominantly at the Mercy Campus, making them more available for the assistance of students in their Pastoral Care Group when needed. This teaching team will also be in charge of many of the subjects run at the Mercy Campus, with a selection of teachers travelling from the Enright Campus when necessary.

# THEMES



To assist our Year 8 students to become more assured, bright, buoyant, encouraged, expectant, happy, hopeful, idealistic and positive people. To aim for our students to see optimism as “not just a mindset, but as a behaviour”. Remember: “To find optimism, look for the good things in life.” “Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement.”



To assist our Year 8 students to be able to build a greater awareness of the regional history, plus the physical and spiritual stories to be told when studying aspects of our environment. In particular the awareness of and the opportunities to embrace what the Grampians has to offer to assist in awareness, and to better understand where they fit within the environment.



” To assist our Year 8 students in developing a healthy lifestyle which incorporates the skills that will equip them to make those healthy choices in terms of exercise, eating habits, controlling unhealthy intakes and managing their mental wellbeing. Our aim is for our students to develop a lifestyle for both now and into the future where they can live, learn, work and play.



To assist our Year 8 students in being able to celebrate the year that has been and for them to be able to highlight all of the positives to be taken from the year and to learn from others. This is to be an opportunity to share with the school community about what our Year 8 students have gained over the 12 months they have spent at the Mercy Campus.

**TERM 1** Introduce the concept of leadership through the election of Year 8 Male and Female Captains, plus a nominated Captain from each pastoral group. A Male and Female Sports Captain will also be nominated. Captains will contribute to the organisation of Year 8 Assemblies and lunch time activities.

**TERM 2** **Positive Psychology: Gratitude** Thankfulness, appreciation and gratefulness. Within our Campus and within our curriculum students develop these ideas of gratitude. Leadership: Work with the elected captains from Term 1 offering support. Incorporate the concept of leadership within the whole Year 8 group by promotion of this concept through various posters around the Campus. Also develop the leadership qualities of the elected Captains by scaffolding their participation in our year level assemblies.

**TERM 3** **Positive Psychology: Resilience** “Our ability to adapt to stress and adversity.” To encourage within our Campus not only the need for, but also the application of strategies and measures to be more resilient in our daily lives. Leadership: To assess how well our Captains have managed their roles and sit and assess their progress with them. It might also be the opportunity in this Term and perhaps even earlier to look at developing leadership specifically within our boys, if there appears to be (as there is within the larger school population) less males willing to develop their leadership skills.

**TERM 4** **Positive Psychology: Growth Mindset** In a growth mindset, people believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work – brains and talent are just the starting point. This view creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishments. Virtually all great people have these qualities. Teaching a growth mindset creates motivation and productivity in the worlds of business, education and sports. Leadership: Further develop the leadership qualities of our group by encouraging the developing options and possibilities for our year level as they re-enter the Enright Campus. Students have the opportunity to be Peer Support Leaders and assist Year 7 Students transitioning into St Joseph’s College.

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Year 8 Camp

During Term 2 students attend camp in the Grampians at Norval Lodge. They participate and undergo challenge by choice activities from Mountain Bike Riding, Bush Walking, Rock Climbing and many more activities. Students will have the opportunity to build stronger relationships with their peers and staff members. As well as challenging their personal boundaries, they will also continue to develop their lifelong skills and positive psychology skills.

## Integrated Curriculum

The St Joseph's College Year 8 Program, will guide students to become lifelong learners through the acquisition of the following skills; resilience, independence, knowledge and inquiry. They will collaborate and build teams with their peers and within the wider St Joseph's College community. Students will meaningfully contribute to the Mercy Ethos, connecting to their spirituality and their world.

The Year 8 Integrated Curriculum is committed to educating the individual as a whole person. The curriculum is underpinned by inquiry and differentiated challenges for individual and interdependent success. The integrated curriculum includes Mathematics, English, Science, Humanities, Health and Religious Education. Each Term explores a central theme; Diversity, Environment, Healthy Choices and Celebration. Students are challenged and encouraged to continually excel themselves as learners, leaders and community members. They are expected to seize and share opportunities to become ongoing successful learners for the future.



## Instrumental Music

Mercy Campus continues to provide opportunities for excellence through Instrumental Music lessons. All our instrumental teachers will teach from specialised rooms on different days. All information on this program can be found in the Instrumental Music booklet (including an enrolment form). All current instrumental students will have the opportunity to continue these lessons with their teachers. New and aspiring musicians are able to begin lessons in 2017. The following instruments/lessons are offered at the Mercy Campus – voice (singing), guitar, drum kit, flute, saxophone, clarinet, trumpet, violin, cello, trombone and piano.

## Specialist Music

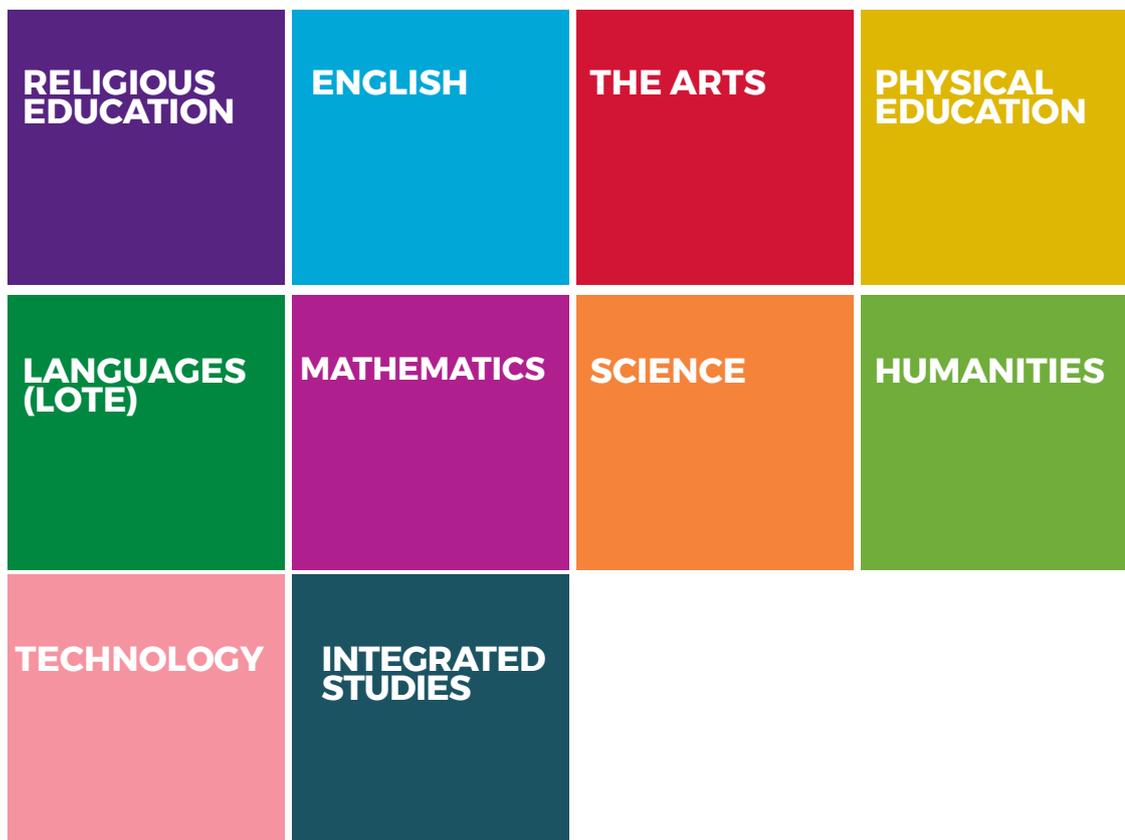
The specialist stream is designed to accelerate students who are already learning an instrument. Ideally, students should be having instrumental lessons with a teacher and be working towards proficiency in performance and theory. This course will provide early acceleration, providing pathways for these young musicians to continue music through to VCE level and beyond. The year-long course will cover a range of areas within music performance and theory; • Solo performance • Group performance • Musicianship skills (theory and aural) • In-depth understanding of own instrument • Performance aspects • Composing and Arranging music for own instrument • Cultural Days Specialist Music days are held twice a term and are full-days of music studies held at the Enright Campus. Students need to apply for this course, by completing the Specialist Music document available and returning to Mr Menhennett by early December 2016.

## Choir

Students who are currently in the Choir will be able to continue their involvement and new students are encouraged to join in 2017. Mercy Campus students will travel by a bus to join with the school choir once a week at Enright Campus. The choir will be under the direction of Joeline Circosta and will perform at events such as; Mass, Assembly, Eisteddfod, Carols by Candlelight and community events.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. Will my son/daughter have Teacher Aide support?**  
The allocation of Teacher Aides will be the same as the Enright Campus, based on the level of qualification of time.
- 2. How will the drop off and pick up our son/daughter operate each day?**  
Enter via the Eleventh Street gate and exit via the Riverside Avenue gate.  
- Refer to the traffic management plan. \*map below.
- 3. Will there be a canteen operating at the campus?**  
Yes, the Mercy Campus canteen will operate as normal. There will be a café operating two days a week for adults and the canteen at all other times.
- 4. Why have we chosen Year 8 rather than Year 9 as some other schools have?**  
The general age of our students is slightly older than it has been over the past or previous years. This suggests that our Year 8's are now the new Year 9's. This is further enhanced by the increasing impact of social media in the lives of many of us in our community and non-more so than our teenagers. Helping to deal with this and other teenager issues suggest our choice is appropriate.
- 5. Will Year 8 students have connections with the whole school?**  
Year 8 students will be bussed back to Enright approximately once a week to engage with homeroom teachers and students from all year levels. They will attend Mass, assemblies and extended homeroom across the year, assisting students to maintain their identity in the whole school community.
- 6. How do students get from Mercy to Enright Campus to catch buses and/or attending after school activities?**  
Shuttle buses will be provided at the end of the day and will meet with connecting buses.



# TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

TBA

