

Policy Date: 1 September 2013

CURRICULUM – MIDDLE SCHOOL

STUDENT POLICY

MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSESSMENT POLICY

It is the student's responsibility:

- To attend school and classes regularly and participate in class activities.
- To be prepared for class and bring correct equipment as specified by the teacher.
- To complete all tasks which are part of the assessment programme.

Assessment tasks

- Teachers will provide adequate notice of all extended pieces of work that are to be used for assessment and will state the due date.
- Completed assessment tasks are due on time. Students who can foresee that a deadline will be impossible to meet should discuss the matter with the teacher well before the due date.
- Assessable work, which is submitted late, will attract a mark penalty. The scale of penalties is as follows:

Late 1 day	10% penalty
Late 2 days	20% penalty
Late 3 days	30% penalty
Late 4 or more days	Zero

- Where late work is not explained satisfactorily, contact with parent/guardian will be made by the subject teacher.
- All work is to be retained. Work is to be kept in a file.
- Students who consistently fail to prepare for assessments or who disregard the requirements of subject programs will be referred to the relevant Head of Department. The appropriate Team Leader or the Associate Principal Middle School will also be informed.
- Subject teachers may also set detention as a consequence for late submission of work.

Plagiarism

- Taking or using another person's writing or ideas and using them as your own work is completely unacceptable. If a student is found to have plagiarised work, they will not be given a mark for the task. Students will still be required to complete and submit the work.
- Should the other source be another student's work, neither party will receive a mark.

Tests/Examination

- Teachers will provide at least 48 hours notice of any in-class assessment or test that is to be used for assessment.

- Students who miss a test or examination will be required to provide their teacher with a medical certificate or a valid parental note explaining their absence. Acceptable reasons for absence are illness or unavoidable family business. Where absence can be foreseen, a student must inform his/her teacher so that an alternative date can be negotiated. Trivial excuses will not be accepted.
- Students who produce a satisfactory parental note or medical certificate will sit the test at the next convenient opportunity and no penalty will apply.
- Students who fail to produce a satisfactory parental note may sit the test at the next convenient opportunity but will not receive a mark.

CURRICULUM

The Peter Moyes Anglican Community Middle School comprises the Years 7 to 9 and constitutes an important transition period between Primary and Senior School. Historically, students moving from Primary School to Secondary School could be alienated, confused and intimidated as they moved from a very secure, supportive environment to one that had many teachers, many classrooms, subject specialisation and a possibly fragmented support structure.

Students at this stage of their lives experience the many challenges of adolescent development. That can be characterised as a time of rapid social, mental, physical, emotional and spiritual change. The Learning Environment in the Middle School is designed specifically for early adolescence. We provide structures and processes that allow a smooth transition from Primary School, into the Middle School, and then prepare students for entry to Senior School in Year 10.

The Middle School offers an environment structured on a shared philosophy of fundamental values and beliefs and curriculum that allows young adolescents to explore themselves and the world in which they live, in the context of 'high expectations'.

Middle School students have a range of personal, intellectual and social needs. The Middle School provides opportunities for young people to learn and grow in ways that acknowledge and respect this unique and special phase of development. We provide an environment that develops;

- The identity of both individuals and groups of individuals.
- Affirming relationships with adults and peers in an environment that respects difference and diversity.
- The specific purpose of learning both for now and the future.
- The skills of children to view the world critically, and to think and act independently, cooperatively and responsibly.
- Success in the learning of valued knowledge and skills, and the use of the talents and expertise students bring to a learning environment.
- Safe risk-taking within realistic learning challenges conducted in an environment of high expectations and constructive, honest feedback.
- A safe, caring and stimulating environment that addresses issues of discrimination and harassment.

In the Middle School we use the Curriculum Framework as a guide to provide suitable lesson content for all of our students. The Curriculum Framework is an 'outcomes based' education system, meaning there are many paths which students can travel to learn the same concept, skill or information.

The Middle School Curriculum incorporates 10 Learning Areas:

- Arts - Music, Drama and Visual Arts
- Christian and Religious Education
- English
- Health and Physical Education
- Languages - Indonesian
- Mathematics
- Science
- Society and Environment
- Technology and Enterprise - Food and Nutrition, Information Technology, Electronics/Robotics, Woodwork and Fabrics courses are compulsory for all students.

Students remain in the same class group (maximum class size of 32) for all lessons. Where possible, students remain in the same class group throughout their time in the Middle School in order to provide continuity and stability for the students.

Throughout the year, students will attend excursions and incursions as part of their studies. Students participate in the Inter-House carnivals for swimming, cross-country and athletics. There are also opportunities to participate in Inter-School sporting competitions for each year level.

All students in Years in 7, 8 and 9 will attend a year-based camp each year. These camps provide an important learning and developmental experience where students are able to engage with different activities and experience learning out of the confines of the classroom. Students will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of age appropriate activities based around Outdoor Education Activities, focused on developing leadership, teamwork and self-confidence. It is a requirement that every student in the Middle School attends the camp. Students that do not attend will still be charged the full amount for the camp.

HOMWORK POLICY

Students in the Middle School undertake a variety of learning activities at home for many pertinent educational reasons. It is important for students to manage and organise their time at home effectively to develop a good balance between School, home, leisure and sport life. Students learn in a variety of ways and at School students work on both explicit and integrated tasks, using resources and participating independently or in group situations. Homework is structured to complement, extend, consolidate and revise the learning that students complete in School time. There are three major types of homework provided to students:

- Task oriented activities that allow students to do repetitive, practice activities that consolidate learning.
- Project type, set assignments that allow students to develop research, thinking, initiative and decision-making skills. These assignments also directly allow students to demonstrate some of the skills they have learnt about in class.
- Revision of work studied throughout the week. This may involve re-reading class notes, writing study notes or completing one of the specific study strategies taught at School so that students can recall and remember their learning. It is a requirement that students spend the equivalent of 5 minutes each night over the course of a week revising vocabulary and phrases learned in the Languages Learning Area.

Students are expected to complete homework at least five nights of the week. This would involve doing at least one or a mix of all three homework forms each week night. Below is an example of a homework plan for a Year 9 student for one night of the week:

- 40 min – Mathematics problems and Science equations. (Type 1 above)
- 45 min – Integrated assignment on Music webpage. (Type 2 above)
- 35 min – Revision of Industrial Revolution notes. (Type 3 above)

The allocation of these times may vary from night to night, as different priorities and deadlines arise. However, Middle School students need to work for the following times for five nights:

- Year 7 – At least 45 to 60 minutes per night.
- Year 8 – At least 60 to 90 minutes per night.
- Year 9 – At least 90 to 120 minutes per night.

It is important that work is consistent, organised and managed to gain the best results.