



Middle School Parent Handbook

2018

Welcome to the Middle School at Holy Trinity Lutheran College. The middle years of schooling (Years 7 to 9) are the foundation years of secondary education. It is important that families and the school work cooperatively to establish the best learning outcomes, effective work habits and good citizenship for every student.

Holy Trinity Lutheran College is a school that strives for excellence, encourages innovation and applauds effort, while firmly anchored in the values of the Christian tradition. As a Christ-centred community, Holy Trinity Lutheran College has a strong focus on relationships. It challenges members of its community to be compassionate, tolerant, deep thinking, socially just individuals who have the confidence, knowledge, courage, flexibility and deep understandings to make a difference, both today and tomorrow.

Our Middle School provides a differentiated academic program that supports learning, promotes acceptance and belonging and encourages personal development. It aims to develop deep understandings and relevant skills that enable each child to reach their academic potential.

The Middle School faculty have a very important role in the daily management of the students in their care. Our committed and dedicated teachers support and encourage students to be the best they can be. In partnership with parents, they nurture the development of the whole person through programs designed to allow each child to grow in the intellectual, sporting, cultural, social and spiritual dimensions of life. We encourage all students to embrace the opportunities that the Middle School brings.

As a college we look forward to sharing your child's learning journey during their time at Holy Trinity Lutheran College.

Our curriculum ethos

Holy Trinity is committed to developing a culture of learning in an environment that is safe and allows students to explore, discuss and seek answers. As part of our mission we endeavour to nurture your child's God given potential and develop lifelong learners and effective global citizens.

A culture of learning

We promote a culture of learning which recognises that learners learn in different ways and at different rates. Therefore we provide a differentiated curriculum with a variety of experiences. At all times, we encourage students to take responsibility for their own learning and teach them strategies for learning and thinking.

A philosophy of instruction

Our instructional strategies are student focused, relevant and rigorous, constantly acknowledging the culture and context of our learners. They integrate opportunities for the provision of explicit instruction and student directed inquiry, initiating independent and collaborative learning tasks. Our content aims to prepare students for life as discerning and active global citizens.

A differentiated curriculum

Secondary classrooms of the 21st century will be increasingly defined by their diversity. Our college is committed to the provision of academic programs designed to challenge, enrich and engage all students. This year, additional teachers in several English and Mathematics classes have allowed class sizes to be smaller and more personalised.

Holy Trinity Lutheran College aims to include those students with learning challenges within general education classes as much as possible to ensure they receive learning opportunities to match those of their peers. Our current staffing arrangement allows us to make this inclusion a workable reality.

Additional staff enable us to more effectively differentiate the curriculum, provide alternative instructional formats, resources and modified assessments to reflect the students' talents and learning styles.

Our aim is to develop our students as independent learners by ensuring that we maximise the learning and participation of all students.

Academic enrichment

Current educational research and literature highlight the fact that students in the early years of secondary schooling display a wide range of individual, intellectual development as their minds experience transition from the concrete-manipulatory stage to the capacity for abstract thought.

At this time, they often consider academic goals as a secondary level of priority, while personal and social concerns dominate their thoughts and activities. These

students frequently demonstrate a preference for active learning experiences, which provide both opportunities for interaction with their peers and challenges beyond their normal subject disciplines.

Our provision of a diverse range of academic enrichment modules, acknowledges student-centred learning and fosters the development of our students as independent and aspirational learners whilst providing learning experiences that may support future pathways.

Middle School curriculum structure

As part of their Middle School experience, your child will be given the opportunity to explore a comprehensive range of subjects.

Year 7

All students study:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Christian Studies
- Humanities (History, Geography, Economics, Civics and Citizenship)
- Design Technology (Food and Timber)
- Music
- Visual Art
- HPE (Health and Physical Education).

Year 8

All students study:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Christian Studies
- Humanities (History, Geography, Economics, Civics and Citizenship)
- Design Technology (Systems and Textiles)
- Music
- Visual Art
- HPE (Health and Physical Education).

Sample Year 7 and 8 timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9.00–9.20	Home Room	Home Room	Home Room	Home Room	Home Room
9.20–10.10	Humanities	Mathematics	Science	English	Mathematics
10.10–11.00	Mathematics	Christian Studies	Science	Humanities	Humanities
11.00	Recess				
11.20–12.10	Year 7/8 electives	English	PE	3D Modeling	Woodwork

12.10–1.00	Year 7/8 electives	Science	PE	3D Modeling	Woodwork
1.00	Lunch				
1.40–2.30	Science	Art	Christian Studies	Mathematics	English
2.30–3.20	English	Art	HEALTH	Pastoral Care	PE
3.20	Dismissal				

Year 9

All students study:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Christian Studies
- Humanities (History, Geography, Economics, Civics and Citizenship)
- HPE (Health and Physical Education)
- Pastoral Care.

Students are required to select three electives for each semester. The options available to students address a range of learning experiences from the following curriculum areas:

- languages
- Design and Technologies
- Digital Technologies
- the Arts (Music, Drama and Visual Arts)
- Health and Physical Education.

Sample Year 9 timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9.00–9.10	Home Room	Home Room	Home Room	Home Room	Home Room
9.10–10.00	Mathematics	Science	Line 3 elective	Mathematics	Humanities
10.00–10.50	Line 2 elective	Pastoral Care	Line 3 elective	English	Mathematics
10.50	Recess				
11.20–12.10	Science	Line 1 elective	Science	PE	Pastoral Care
12.10–1.00	Humanities	Line 1 elective	Humanities	Christian Studies	Pastoral Care
1.00	Lunch				
1.40–2.30	Line 3 elective	Health	English	Line 2 elective	Christian Studies
2.30–3.20	Line 1 elective	English	Mathematics	Line 2 elective	English
3.20	Dismissal				

Reporting

Comprehensive written student reports will be completed at the end of Term 2 and Term 4. A student's final grade for a subject may be derived from a variety of assessment tasks conducted throughout the semester including; topic tests, examinations, assignments, oral presentations and classroom observations.

Interim reports will be issued at the end of Term 1 and Term 3. In addition to written reports, opportunities will be available for interviews throughout the year.

Testing and examinations

Holy Trinity Lutheran College believes it is important that its students gain experience at sitting tests and examinations. Middle School students can expect to be formally assessed through end of topic tests and end of semester examinations. Regular diagnostic testing will take place to monitor student growth and progression.

Homework

Homework requirements are as follows:

- Year 7 students: 60 minutes of homework/study + reading each night.
- Year 8 and 9 students: 75 minutes of homework/study + reading each night.

At times it may be necessary for students to complete homework over the weekend if they have missed important lesson time or have not completed an assessment task. This will be recorded in student planners when necessary. Homework may be set at the beginning of the week or given at the end of a lesson. It is important that parents regularly check their student's planner to see what homework they have for that night or week. Homework tasks may change from week to week.

Camps

Camps, excursions and incursions are seen as an important component of the curriculum. They enable students to gain first hand experiences that are not possible within the normal classroom or school settings. They also allow our students to develop their independence and social interdependence skills while sampling a variety of other experiences that they may not yet have come into contact with.

The camps program aims to:

- provide off-campus educational experiences to supplement the curriculum and further enhance student interest in a range of curriculum extension activities
- assist in the development of socialisation skills
- assist in the transition from primary to secondary school
- assist in the orientation of all students to the school and its ethos
- foster the development of positive relationships between peers and staff
- encourage leadership skills, teamwork and personal development
- assist students to gain confidence and understanding of a new environment
- encourage strong social communication and interaction without the use of mobile phones and multimedia technology for the course of this program.

Year 7 camps

Year 7 students will be involved in two camps during the year. The orientation camp takes place at the start of the year at Tandara, Halls Gap and is aimed at helping students settle into the Middle School. This is a two-day, one-night camp with no expense to parents.

The end of year camp will be held at Cape Bridgewater, near Portland. This will be a 4-day, 3-night coastal camp, held in December. The students will take part in a variety of activities including snorkelling, surfing, canoeing, seal tours, beach games, mountain biking, sand-duning, caving and more.

Year 8 camp

Year 8 camp has an Outdoor Education focus and is a 4 day, 3 night camp to Cape Otway. Preparations for the camp, instruct the students in preparing their own meals and camping resources. Outdoor experiences include sea kayaking, stand up paddle boarding and canoeing.

Year 9 camps

In Year 9, students have the opportunity to participate in a global service project through their involvement in a trip to Pampangna in the Philippines. Fundraising will enable the students to identify a focus for the purchase of school resources and then plan instructional activities for their introduction to the students.

The Rite Journey camp

In Year 9, students take part in the year-long personal development program—'The Rite Journey.' In Term 4, all Year 9 students attend a week-long 'Rite Journey Camp' at Tandara, Halls Gap. Students undertake morning fitness sessions, personal development sessions, team and individual challenges and resiliency activities, all aimed at building independence in the students. A 24-hour solo experience and 3-day bushwalk are features of the camp.

Excursions

Some curriculum excursions for Years 7 to 10 may be held outside of the Horsham area and will require bus travel and other expenses. Parents will be required to subsidise some or all of these expenses.

Service learning/international programs

Service learning is a values-based program which aims to teach young people generosity and empathy for others—putting values into action. Service learning encourages students to learn and grow through active participation in thoughtfully organised service experiences that meet actual community needs. Service learning is a powerful tool to connect students' learning by helping organisations and interacting with people they might not ordinarily meet. It also has the potential to sensitise students to social, moral and ethical issues and helps students to be able to reflect actively on what they are learning and the impact of that learning on their lives. The benefits of this experience extend in both directions—the organisation benefits and your child learns more about the world and themselves through the process. Students have the opportunity to be involved in service learning in our

Middle School in purposeful ways including our Australian Lutheran Schools Week Awareness Day and Philippines Learning Tour.

Service trip (Philippines learning tour)

Holy Trinity Lutheran College is fortunate to have had the opportunity to establish a partnership with San Agustin Elementary School in Pampanga, Philippines. San Agustin is located in a rural area about 1.5 hours north-east of Manila. It is an extremely poor area, with sub-standard school buildings and few teaching resources in the classrooms. As a college with a heart for service and the ability to help, we made the decision to support the school. A group of Year 9 students travel each year to the Philippines to work in the school community, developing relationships with the staff, students and family. They learn about the value and significance of global relationships and the ways in which they impact on their own values and perceptions. The students will learn more about the blessings of service.

Communication

Holy Trinity Lutheran College encourages open communication between students, parents and teachers. You can communicate with your child's teachers via email, phone or in person.

Information is distributed on a regular basis via:

- the app—download on our website or by searching for 'Holy Trinity Lutheran College' in the App Store
- student daily notices—provided during Home Room sessions
- parent/teacher interviews
- parent workshops
- the newsletter—available on the app or the website
- the website (htlc.vic.edu.au).

General information

- Address: 25 Trinity Drive, Horsham Victoria 3400
- Phone number: (03) 5382 2529
- Email address: admin@htlc.vic.edu.au
- Website: htlc.vic.edu.au

Leadership team

Principal:	Mr Daniel Weller (principal@htlc.vic.edu.au)
Head of Senior School:	Mrs Sally Kuchel (sally.kuchel@htlc.vic.edu.au)
Head of Middle School:	Mr Jason Przibilla (jason.przibilla@htlc.vic.edu.au)
Head of Junior School:	Mrs Fiona Friberg (fiona.friberg@htlc.vic.edu.au)