

Welcome to the Middle School

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The structure of Varsity College Middle School recognises the importance of the 'Middle Years of Schooling'. The creation of a 'Middle School' is designed to respond to the special needs of students in early adolescence.

The needs of young Australian adolescents have been identified as:

- Identity - exploring how individuals and groups are shaped by social and cultural groups.
- Relationships – developing productive and affirming relationships with adults and peers in an environment that respects diversity.
- Purpose – having opportunities to negotiate learning that is useful now, as well as in the future.
- Empowerment – viewing the world critically and acting independently, cooperatively and responsibly.
- Success – have multiple opportunities to learn valued knowledge and skills as well as the opportunity for student input.
- Rigour – taking on realistic learning challenges with high expectations and constructive, honest feedback.
- Safety – learning in a safe, caring and stimulating environment that addresses issues of discrimination and harassment

At Varsity College Middle School, the organisation of learning for students includes Years 7, 8 and 9. Each class will have one or two Foundation Studies teachers for over 50% of the week. These teachers will get to know their students very well.

Students will have a 'home room', which will give them a sense of stability and ownership and a cooperative approach to learning and flexible time structures. The College has 'State of the Art' computer resources across the school.

At Varsity College, the curriculum will cater to the needs of young adolescents by:

- Being learner- centred and integrated to create meaningful learning with application to real life situations.
- Providing a strong 'Foundation Studies' and 'Specialist Studies' program that prepares young adolescents for their future in a variety of life roles.

- Embedding pastoral care issues within the curriculum with opportunities for students to examine issues relevant to their physical, emotional, social, cognitive and civic development.

- Utilising a range of information communication technologies within all areas of study.

- Ensuring students are critical and lateral thinkers, problem solvers able to develop creative solutions within an ethical framework.

- Providing intellectual rigour in the curriculum and having high expectations in terms of student commitment and performance.

- Celebrating the success of students by recognising their unique contributions to the school.

We look forward to the opportunity to provide a high quality education to students in these very important years of development.