



MOUNT GAMBIER HIGH SCHOOL

Transition Booklet



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

LEARNING

BELONGING

RESPONSIBILITY



Mount Gambier High School
promotes a culture of learning,
belonging and responsibility
for all students.

From our Principal

Mount Gambier High School is a school recognised for its innovation and excellence. The school motto is “Nothing Without Effort” which encapsulates our intent as a school, that is, an unrelenting commitment to continuous staff and student improvement, growing our practice and programs to meet the current and future needs of our students. We promote and value a spirit of Learning, Belonging and Responsibility, celebrating diversity and collaboration.

Students are able to access a comprehensive curriculum across a range of learning areas in year 7 to 10 including language studies in Japanese and Italian. In the Senior Years, students can choose from a broad curriculum designed to support a wide variety of career and tertiary pathways. Four accredited Special Sports Programs, an Automotive Skills Centre on site, access to a range of Vocational Education and Training (VET) programs, a specialist performing and creative arts centre and sister schools in Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom involving an International Student Exchange program, encourage a diverse range of learning opportunities. Participation in public speaking, debating, sporting and maths and science competitions provides our students with the opportunities to experience success in the wider community arena.

Literacy improvement through a focus on reading comprehension across all year levels is our ongoing improvement priority along with Numeracy consistently being implemented in all classrooms. Our pedagogical framework guides the use of high impact teaching strategies in our practice to engage and extend students in their learning.

At Mount Gambier High School, we believe that all students should leave high school as literate and numerate learners who have the regulatory and interpersonal skills to be successful in whatever pathway they choose. Some students may require more support than others to achieve this. Mount Gambier High Schools Special Options Class blends high school curriculum with individualised programming and planning that allows all students to succeed, with a focus on age-appropriate content in developmentally appropriate ways allowing conversation and academic connection with peers in traditional classroom settings.

Mount Gambier High School also offers onsite Flexible Learning Options as an option for young people seeking to reengage with education in order to complete their SACE. The pathway aims to improve their social and emotional wellbeing with the added option of having a case manager and access to the school site and subjects offered. It enables students to manage work and study to achieve academic success in a pathway that caters to individual needs.

Our school also offers Flexible Industry Pathways (FIP) that includes SACE compulsory subjects and any SACE subjects relevant to the industry sector to ensure that students can complete VET qualifications and the SACE. VET provides young people access to quality industry specific VET programs that can lead to further education and employment. School-based apprenticeships and traineeships give young people the chance to learn real skills in the workplace, earn a nationally recognised qualification and be paid a wage, which rises as they progress through training. They enter into a training contract with an employer and a registered training provider that allows them to combine hands-on training in the workplace with formal school study.

Mount Gambier High School has an active and supportive Governing Council, strong community support, committed, highly experienced and talented staff and a proactive and involved student leadership team. Of course, this Transition Booklet cannot take the place of visiting our school or speaking to me or a member of staff directly; I warmly welcome you to visit or call our school to discover firsthand what makes a Mount Gambier High School education so special.



Kym Grant





Primary School Transition

Mount Gambier High School is very mindful of creating smooth transitions for all new students. We believe that children learn best when they feel attached and when relationships are personalised, caring and continuous. Our transition program supports the wellbeing of our young people and provides a seamless entry to high school from primary school.

MGHS Transition Program

Mount Gambier High School has a strong transition program providing many opportunities for our new students to develop positive relationships with peers, teachers, and wider school staff. Students are encouraged to participate in these opportunities to build their sense of belonging within our school community. Transition activities including peer led school tours and orientation days that will occur in 2024, with 2025 seeing access to a range of team building and personal challenges through the year level sleepovers, whole school Athletics and Swimming Carnivals, lunch time activities and excursions.

Many studies show the importance of the transition to secondary school in shaping emotional wellbeing. The Mount Gambier High School Middle School Wellbeing and Management team consisting of Head of Middle School, Student Wellbeing Leader, Learning and Engagement Leaders, Aboriginal Secondary Transition Officers and Youth Workers; work collaboratively, alongside families and carers, to support every student around their overall wellbeing, and build their unique sense of identity, purpose and meaning.



Term
1

- Twilight Tours for parents/caregivers

Term
2

- Primary school visits to talk about transition and distribute Welcome Packs.

Term
3

- Identify students with additional needs and provide extra transition visits in terms 3 and 4.

Term
4

- Weeks 1-3, student led tours for year 6 students.
- Small School Transition Program
- Extended transition visits for students where needed.
- Week 8 - Orientation Days
- Year 6 Parent Information Night
- Parent Meetings

Year 7 Parents Meet and Greet Night

Early in term 1 next year there will be an opportunity to meet the Middle School Management Team and your child's Impact, Global Perspectives and Solutions Teachers at a 'Parent Welcome Night'.

Middle School Approach

At Mount Gambier High School our vision is that students practise skills and gain confidence to successfully face the challenges of an ever-changing world in an environment that values a sense of learning, innovation and agile thinking.



The move to high school can cause some uncertainty for many children and families, with our Middle School set up to minimise many of the concerns our students face. Students will have a small group of core teachers to support them. Global Perspectives is an integrated approach to HASS and English taught by the same teacher and Solutions is a Maths and Science collaboration. These subjects allow us to foster student agency by involving them in the learning process and designs, and develop programs with varied levels of achievement that challenges all students.

Our Middle School classes create a safe space for students to challenge themselves and develop critical thinking skills. Our Impact program creates links between student learning and the wider community to develop real-world skills and responsibilities.

Impact Program

Impact is the Middle School home group program that runs on Mondays and Fridays during lesson 2. Impact has been created through collaboration with key Middle School teachers and leaders, along with input from students. Impact incorporates entrepreneurial learning, career education, 'Play is the Way' concepts, aspects of the Year 7, 8 and 9 Health Curriculum, wellbeing, Zones of Regulation and the Child Protection Curriculum. The impact program is designed to help our students develop a sense of belonging within our school community.

Impact is student focused learning, with a focus on 'the impact that I have on myself, others and my learning'. There are links to community, 'the impact that I have on my school community, wider community and personal communities', along with the students' future Impact 'how can I leverage my impact to ensure my future is successful and I have a positive influence on the world'.



- Connection
- Play
- Belonging
- Communication
- Student Agency



- Relationships
- Critical Thinking
- Belonging
- Communication
- Student Agency



- Relationships
- Critical Thinking
- Belonging
- Communication
- Student Agency
- Future Impact





Learning

Our commitment is to shape the curriculum into one that supports the needs of all students, that fosters learning in as many and diverse ways as possible and that gives the student a voice as a learner. Year 7 students will be offered a variety of subjects including both core and future elective subjects.



Core Subjects:

- Global Perspectives (HASS and English)
- Solutions (Science and Mathematics)

Elective Subjects:

- Design and Technology (Plastics, Woodwork, Metalwork and Digital Technologies)
- Health and Physical Education, Health, and Food and Nutrition
- Languages (Japanese or Italian)
- The Arts (Drama, Music, Visual Arts and Design)

Beyond year 7 students will have the opportunity to select a wide range of subjects including: Automotive, Business Innovation, Child Studies, Dance, Environmental Biology, Entrepreneurial Learning, Geography, Media Studies, Pedal Prix, Photography, Psychology, Robotics, Society and Culture, South Australian Aboriginal Secondary Training Academy, STEM, plus opportunities for Vocational Education and Training (VET) through the Flexible Industry Pathways program.



Six-Line Middle School Timetable

The year 7 timetable consists of six subjects lines allocated across the school week. Impact will be held twice a week on a Monday and Friday during lesson 2. The school day is broken up with three breaks times - two recess breaks and one lunch break.



COMMENCES	LESSON	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8.45 (Bell 8:40)	1	1	4	2	6	5
10.05 – 10.25	Morning Recess					
10.25 – 11.45	2	Impact	5	3	1	Impact
11.45 – 12.15	Lunch					
12.15 – 1.35	3	2	6	5	3	4
1.35 – 1.55	Afternoon Recess					
1.55 – 3.15	4	3	1	4	2	6
3.15	Dismissal					

Belonging

We believe that relationships sit at the heart of learning. A culture of belonging is essential for the wellbeing of the individual and the school community. We strive to ensure that our students are acknowledged as individuals; they have a voice in the school planning and decision-making, and are encouraged to see the 'possibility', the potential of their success.

Our commitment to enhancing resilience is evident in the school 'Code of Conduct - CARE' - and a diversity of programs. Communication, Achievement, Respect and Empowerment are the touchstones for all our endeavours.

Mount Gambier High School sets a high standard of classroom behaviour. We have a restorative justice approach for any form of bullying, harassment and/or violence. We take this stand to ensure that we protect and support our students who are here to learn, achieve and succeed.

Code of Conduct



COMMUNICATION

- Speak to each other positively and politely
- Listen to each other
- Use appropriate audience skills
- Support all lines of communication between school and family
- Mobile phones to be off and not visible for the school day



ACHIEVEMENT

- Strive to achieve personal best in learning
- Stay on task and work productively
- Set goals and challenge ourselves
- Act on feedback provided by the teacher
- Cooperate with teachers and classmates
- Actively participate in programs developed to support your individual learning needs



RESPECT

- Respect the rights of students to learn and teachers to teach
- Acknowledge, respect and tolerate each other's differences and views
- Cooperating with all reasonable requests from a staff member
- Use respectful behaviour and language towards peers, all staff and visitors
- Take an active part in creating and maintaining a tidy environment, and well cared for facilities
- Respect and support the school's Uniform Policy
- Be respectful of people's personal belongings and space



EMPOWERMENT

- Arrive on time to all lessons and be fully prepared for productive learning
- Use grievance procedures for unresolved issues
- Seek and give assistance
- Resolve conflict with fairness and dignity
- Not accept bullying, harassment or racism from or towards others
- Be responsible for your own safety





Opportunity



Our aim is that students will always have something to do, activities to enjoy or adopt as a challenge. Sporting and cultural activities are strongly represented: they form the basis of our annual exchange with Berri Regional Secondary College which commenced in 1947. This is one of the longest standing exchanges of its kind in all Australia. It has continued virtually unbroken since its inception. We have a proud record in interschool athletics, swimming and cross country events. Students also have the opportunity to be involved in a wide range of State interschool sporting competitions.

Students showcase their creative talents in a variety of music, drama, dance, film productions and art displays. The Arts department focus on annual productions in all areas of the Arts along with the opportunity for students to participate in school bands and perform at community events.

There are a range of academic based extra-curricular activities and competitions that students can be involved with such as the Uni SA Stem Innovation Experience, Stem Girls Program, Maths competitions, debating and public speaking.

School beautification projects are based on student design and have drawn commendation from KESAB. Students are engaged in recycling projects and are encouraged to look after our environment.

A number of opportunities arise throughout the year for students to travel overseas through Language Studies trips and involvement with groups such as World Challenge.



Social Inclusion

The main aim of the School Curriculum is to provide relevant, broad, balanced and challenging learning programs for all students. It seeks to be inclusive and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to achieve their best while taking responsibility for their own learning. Mount Gambier High School embodies the belief that everyone has the right to participate equally in society and therefore that education should be equal for all students.

Special Options Class

The main aim of the school curriculum is to provide relevant, broad, balanced and challenging learning programs for all students. It seeks to be inclusive and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to achieve their best while taking responsibility for their own learning. Mount Gambier High School embodies the belief that everyone has the right to participate equally in society and therefore that education should be equal for all students.



Peer Mentoring Program

The program has been developed to support year 6 students in their transition from primary school to high school. Year 9/10 students are trained and placed in Year 7 Impact classes for the first half of the year. The role of the Peer Mentor is to help our new students get to know each other, form new friendships and become familiar with the school. The Peer Mentors run team building sessions within Impact, organise and manage lunchtime activities and whole year level events. The students will develop relationships with their peers and create positive routines and networks that support a successful transition to secondary school.

Uniform Policy

It is an expectation of Mount Gambier High School Governing Council, Principal and staff that all students abide by the Uniform Policy. A parent/caregiver application to enrol at Mount Gambier High School is taken as acceptance of this policy.

The students, parents and staff of this school believe that our school uniform is important in developing a sense of identity and pride for our students.

Our compulsory school uniform can be purchased through Lowes Australia, located at the Mount Gambier Marketplace. Further information about our uniform policy can be found on our website.





Special Sports Programs

Mount Gambier High School offers the following Special Sports programs:

- Basketball
- Soccer
- Netball
- Football

These programs are supported by nationally accredited coaches (levels 1, 2 and 3) from the school, community and state sporting associations.

Students will be able to select the Football, Netball, Basketball and Soccer programs in years 9, 10 and 11 (Integrated Learning).

The purpose of the Special Sports programs is to maximise the development of students committed to improving their skills as they train and receive specialist coaching within the school curriculum.

These programs are offered as part of the Health and Physical Education subject choice and each program will have a focus on skill development, fitness improvement, training principles, diet and nutrition, and increasing knowledge and understanding on all aspects of their chosen sport.

Please note: Enrolment at Mount Gambier High School and completion of a written application does not guarantee selection in a Special Sports program.

Students can apply to participate in one of our four Specialist Sports Programs



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