Year 8
Information and Curriculum
Handbook 2014
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Message from the Principal

At Thornbury High School we believe that a safe and secure learning environment, high academic standards and opportunities for students to pursue individual interests are the essential elements of an outstanding education.

At Thornbury High our purpose is to prepare students for a changing, diverse and sustainable world by:

- Building knowledge and skills,
- Encouraging effort and excellence,
- Fostering resilience and integrity,
- Developing a caring and cooperative learning community.

At Thornbury High School there are three distinct phases in education:

- Establishment and Support (Year 7 and 8).
- Empowerment and Independence (Year 9).
- Specialisation and Pathways (Year 10, 11 and 12).

In Year 10, students will be prepared for their VCE studies but also have a range of curriculum choices. These choices include VCE studies, Advanced Mathematics, Vocational and Education studies (VET) and a range of electives.

Peter Egeberg, Principal

Our Goals

In Year 8 the Journey continues...........

At Year 8 we aim to continue the successful transition that our students began in Year 7 at Thornbury High School.

Year 8 students have a program covering the eight key learning areas: English, Mathematics, Science, Arts, Physical Education / Health, Languages other than English, Technology, and Humanities. Students receive a solid grounding in academic studies alongside practical studies and the arts (including music). Thornbury High offers four languages other than English: Greek, Indonesian, Italian and Mandarin.

At Year 8, we continue the reading program started in year 7. English classes have one period a fortnight timetabled in the library. Students borrow the books they are reading and are expected to read them at home between the fortnightly reading sessions.

Expectations regarding behaviour, attendance and uniform must be adhered to and we ask that you support students in their learning by familiarising yourself with the requirements set out by the school. If you are experiencing any difficulties with uniform or books please call us immediately. We would like every child at the school to have every opportunity to be their best.

Year 8 Team
Student responsibilities and parent information

Discipline policy
The School has a structured Discipline Policy which is published in the School Planner. Copies are available from our website: www.thornburyhs.vic.edu.au
We expect Thornbury High students to behave at all times with courtesy, common sense and consideration for others.

Wearing of uniform
All students must wear the correct uniform when going to and from school and on other occasions as directed. The full school uniforms requirements are outlined in the school planner. Sport uniform must be worn during Sport, Physical Education and during inter school sport days and when representing the school.

Hats/caps are only to be worn outside the school buildings.

Uniforms are available to buy from the Academy uniform shop which operates at the school during lunchtimes on Wednesdays. Uniform may also be bought from Monday to Saturday at the Academy shop at 238 Wolseley Place, Thomastown 3074. Phone 9460 8011.

A second hand uniform shop operates from the school on Monday 3pm to 4pm.

Lockers
All students are issued with a locker. On entry to the school, students are requested to pay a $20 deposit to the General Office where they will be issued with a combination lock.

Students are required to put their bags in their locker. They are not permitted to carry their bags to class including PE classes or at recess and lunchtime. A small bag should be used to take their sport uniform to the gymnasium.

For security reasons, students are not permitted to go to their locker during class time unless they have signed permission in their planner from their classroom teacher.

Student Planner
On enrolment, each student will be supplied with a planner. The planner is to be used exclusively for school-related matters. It is not a personal diary. If not maintained in good condition free of stickers, graffiti and personal annotations, the planner must be replaced.

The planner is a very important document and our students are expected to take this to each class. The planner outlines important information. It contains detailed information on uniform requirements, school policies, regulations, rules and consequences, student goals, study plans, the times of classes and other information relevant to our students.

The planner is used to record all homework.

Parents are asked to check the planner each night for homework, notes from teachers, etc. The planner can be used as a means of communication to teachers if parents wish to write messages back to the co-ordinator, form teacher or class teacher.
Homework
Regular homework is given. All homework should be entered in the student planner by the student. Homework can take a number of forms: finishing off class work, revising, completing set tasks, researching, redrafting, homework assignments or completing class assignments and common assessment tasks, practising an instrument and reading.

A Homework timetable is issued at the beginning of each semester to all Years 7-9 students and will be published in the School News.

Parents should not accept students constantly telling them they do not have homework.

Homework Club
The Homework Club commences at 3.10pm twice per week, for one hour. The Homework Club is supervised by staff and teachers who are available to assist students with their work during this time. Details concerning the location and the day when this will occur in 2014 will be available in the School News at the beginning of the school year.

Student absence
All students are expected to be punctual and regular in their attendance. Students are required to maintain a minimum 90% attendance rate at school. If your child is absent for any reason parents are requested to ring the ABSENCE LINE and leave a message on the voice mail. If the student is absent for an extended reason, a doctors certificate is required. Dental or doctor appointments should not be made during school time unless absolutely unavoidable.

If your child is away for a lengthy period of time, work can be arranged to be sent home. Please contact your child's year level co-ordinator.

**ABSENCE LINE ONLY**

*9458 6161*

**MESSAGES TAKEN 24 HOURS**

*Late arrivals can also be notified via the absence line*

Please leave: student name, form, contact number, reason for absence and, if late, time of estimated arrival.

Students sick at school
If a student is unwell at school, the school will contact the parent or guardian before sending the student home. No student is permitted to go home unless the school has contacted the parent or guardian. Students are not permitted to use mobile phones if they are sick to contact parents without permission from a staff member.

It is important that when all students are enrolled at the school, emergency phone numbers are given as well as a contact number for the parent/guardian. It is also important that these phone numbers are kept up to date and changes are made with the General Office.
Collecting your child from school
If for any reason you need to collect your child during the school day, please report to the General Office. Please use the ‘Early Leavers’ book to sign your child out.
For safety reasons, we cannot allow students to wait for parents in the car park or surrounding areas.

Permission to leave the school
Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds during the school day without official permission. If it is necessary for a student to leave the school during school hours for any reason, they need to provide a note to their Year Level Co-ordinator and sign the ‘Early Leavers’ book which is located at the General Office.

Contacting the School
If you have any enquiries regarding your child’s program or progress, please contact your child’s Year Level co-ordinator who will either answer your queries or direct you to the appropriate person. The Year Level co-ordinator closely monitors all students in their care, so it is important to notify them of anything which may affect your child’s progress at school.

Teacher Contact
Parents are invited to contact teachers. If you wish to see a teacher, parents must ring and make an appointment. Please be aware that teachers are not always available as they have classes, meetings and other commitments. Parents may also email staff via the ‘contact our staff’ page on the school website.

School Detention
An official school detention runs from 3.10 until 4.00pm on Tuesday and Thursday. Students required to attend a school detention will be issued with a detention notice stating the reason for the detention and requires a parent/guardian signature.

If students are late to class, or have not completed homework, they can receive a ten minute detention after school from 3.10 to 3.20pm. Parents will not be notified in this case unless there is no improvement shown.

Catch-up classes are held on Saturday for students needing to complete CATs. Parents are notified in writing. Saturday detention classes are also held.

Excursions/Sporting events:
All activities which involve students leaving the school grounds require parental/guardian permission in writing. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure the appropriate forms are taken home, filled in correctly with all relevant contact numbers, and returned by the due date to the organising teacher. If this is not done, students may miss the opportunity to be involved in the activity/excursion.

Text books
We are very aware of the cost to our parents in educating their child. We take particular care that we do not have an extensive book list so that we can reduce the cost for our parents. It is important that all our students have the necessary text books for all their subject areas.
Students will be notified when second hand books are available for sale at the end of the year.

Students may hand in their books at the end of the year to sell. We suggest that students take care of their books as this will increase the value of their books when they wish to re sell them - and further reduce the cost of books to parents.
Canteen
The school has a canteen available which provides food to our students. It is open before school as well as at recess and lunchtime. Lunch orders can be placed before school and at recess. Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds at any time to buy their lunch at other facilities. There is a separate queue for girls.

Money and Valuables/Mobile Phones
Money or valuables should be left at the General Office for safe keeping during the day. The school will not take responsibility for the security of any possessions or valuables not handed to the General Office. Mobile phones and iPods cannot be used during class time. No photographs or film/video recordings using mobile phones is permitted in school buildings or on the school grounds.

Legal and illegal substances NOT to be used at school
Whilst students are at school or travelling to and from school, or attending any school function, or wearing school uniform they are
- not permitted to have or use any tobacco products.
- not permitted to use or process, sell or be under the influence of alcoholic beverages, mind altering substances or illegal substances

The following substances are banned from all school buildings, grounds and school buses
- Chewing gum
- Liquid paper, White-out or other similar substances
- Permanent markers/textas

Punctuality
We expect all our students to be punctual to school and class. All students begin the day with a Form Assembly. Students are expected to be at school by 8.45am so that they can collect their books from their lockers.

Students who arrive late on more than three occasions will be given a school detention.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL BELL TIMES</th>
<th>EARLY DISSMISAL BELL TIMES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LOCKERS</td>
<td>LOCKERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.50 am</td>
<td>8.50am</td>
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<tr>
<td>FORM ASSEMBLY</td>
<td>FORM ASSEMBLY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.55 am</td>
<td>8.55am</td>
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<tr>
<td>PERIOD 1</td>
<td>PERIOD 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.04 am</td>
<td>9.00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>PERIOD 2</td>
<td>PERIOD 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.16 am</td>
<td>10.05am</td>
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<tr>
<td>RECESS</td>
<td>RECESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.28am</td>
<td>11.10am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOCKER BELL</td>
<td>LOCKER BELL</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.52am</td>
<td>11.25am</td>
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<tr>
<td>PERIOD 3</td>
<td>PERIOD 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.57am</td>
<td>11.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>LUNCH</td>
<td>PERIOD 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.09pm</td>
<td>12.35pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOCKER BELL</td>
<td>END OF DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.53pm</td>
<td>1.40 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERIOD 4</td>
<td>PD – SESSION 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.58pm</td>
<td>2.30-3.30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>END OF DAY</td>
<td>PD – SESSION 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.10pm</td>
<td>3.30-4.30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERIOD 5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4.22pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Early Dismissal
On Thursday (blue week) afternoons, approx three times per term, students are dismissed at 1.40pm for staff professional development. Please check the School News for dates.
Student Services
Thornbury High School has the services of the following:
- Student Wellbeing Co-ordinator
- Social Worker (part time)
- Adolescent Health Nurse (part time)
- Youth Worker
- Integration Program
The School has a Student Well Being Team which meets regularly to discuss programs for individual and groups of students. This team consists of Principal class, year level co-ordinators, sub-school managers, integration and the personnel listed above.

Bullying Survey
Harassment is any behaviour, verbal or physical, which is unwelcome, dangerous, intrusive, violent, abusive or discriminatory in nature or offensive to a person. Harassment will not be tolerated in any way.

The school conducts an annual survey of students to:
- Ascertain the level of the problem.
- Identify areas of the school where students feel less safe.
- Identify students who bully and provide appropriate consequences and support.

ICT
Students need to pay for their printing. Five dollar, two dollar and 50cent top-up cards should be purchased from the General Office either before school, recess or lunch.

Parent involvement
At Thornbury High School, we strongly promote the partnership between our parents and staff in providing the best education for each individual child. An important aspect of this partnership is to keep our parents informed about the progress of their child and the events which are occurring in the school. We do this in a variety of ways:

School News
The School News is issued three times a term and is emailed or posted home to each family to inform our parents of the events which are occurring in the school. Please read this newsletter as it will keep you up to date with all important events and all activities that are going on in the school. The School News is also found on the school web page www.thornburyhs.vic.edu.au

Parent participation
There are many ways parents can be more involved in the school’s programs. These include many of the committees which operate within the School. Please let the office know if you are interested in participating in any of the school’s committees. These include: School Council, its various sub committees and the Music Parents Association

Education Maintenance Allowance
Parents on EMA need to be aware of the date that these forms need to be completed and handed in to the General Office. Reminder dates are published in the School News. Please ring the School’s Business Manager if you have any queries regarding EMA.
Student activities

The school offers Years 8 students the opportunity to be involved in a number of activities throughout their time in the Junior School. These include the following:

Inter-school sports
The whole school participates in a number of sporting events and students are encouraged to be involved in any of school’s sport teams. Students interested in a particular sport should attend the information meeting and any practice sessions outside class hours as required by the coach of that team.

House sports
All students are allocated a House team (Onus/Nicholls/Saunders/Blair) and participate in the Swimming and Athletics Carnival days.

School Representative Council (SRC)
The School Representative Council is an active body in the school with students participating in decision making processes on important issues relating to students. SRC representatives run year level assemblies and organise events during the school year. The SRC also supports various charities by arranging and taking part in fundraising events.

Debating
The School has for many years had a significant involvement in debating, fielding many teams at different levels with great success including competitions established by the Debating Association of Victoria.

Concert/Stage/Rock Groups/ Music Program
Students who learn an instrument can be involved in one of these groups. These groups perform regularly and attend a Music Camp.

Competitions and Special Events
Throughout the year, students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of competitions and special events. All students are encouraged to participate in these extra curricula activities as they provide an opportunity for students to practise their abilities in public forums and gain acknowledgment for their talents. These Special Events include:

- Westpac Mathematics Competition
- A range of Sporting Events
- Thornbury’s Got Talent
- Science Competitions
- School Musical Production
- Public Speaking
**Assessment and Reporting**

**Reporting to parents**
Parents are invited to contact their child’s co-ordinator to discuss their child's progress at any time. Teachers may contact the parent, at any time, via the planner, e-mail or by making a phone call to the parent, if there is some concern about a student’s progress.

There are four occasions throughout the year when there is a more formal reporting of a child's progress. This occurs at the end of each term.

At the end of Terms 1 and Term 3, Interim or Progress Reports are issued and Parent/Teacher Interviews are conducted. This is an important time for parents to meet class teachers to discuss a child’s progress.

A more detailed report is issued at the end of Semester 1 and 2.

**Compulsory Assessment Tasks (CATs)**
All students in years 7 to 10 will be provided with a list of CATs for all core subjects and electives at the beginning of each semester.

Students are expected to complete all CATs by the due date at an satisfactory standard. Students may be issued with an extension. This is outlined in the diagram below:

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**Process for submission of Years 7-10 CATs**

- **CAT due today. Handed in on time?**
  - YES
  - NO
  - LONG TERM ABSENCE

- **Teacher approves 24hour extension. Work submitted after extension?**
  - YES
  - NO

- **Legitimate excuse? (or medical certificate)**
  - YES
  - NO

- **Teacher hands out weekend class letter to student. Student submits work at weekend class?**
  - YES
  - NO

- **Does it meet requirements?**
  - YES
  - NO

**Grades:**
- **HIGH DISTINCTION**
- **DISTINCTION**
- **CREDIT**
- **SATISFACTORY**
- **UNSATISFACTORY**: CAT does not meet the minimum acceptable standard
- **SATISFACTORY**: Maximum grade available after weekend class submission
- **NOT SUBMITTED**: CAT not submitted even after an extension
- **NOT ASSESSED**: Long term approved absence by student or teacher
Overview of the Year 8 Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBJECTS</th>
<th>Periods per fortnight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities – History &amp; Geography</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education – Sport &amp; Health</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOTE – Greek, Italian, Indonesian &amp; Mandarin</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>6 (one semester only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology – Wood &amp; Food</td>
<td>6 (one semester only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music/Drama/Media</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above chart gives an overview of the Year 8 curriculum and indicates the number of periods per fortnight allocated to each subject or Key Learning Area.

Each period is of 72 minutes duration.

Policy on Promotion

We regard the learning and teaching process as a partnership between students, parents and staff. Therefore, we expect our students to actively participate in this process, and to take personal responsibility for their own learning.

We similarly expect our parent community to support their children both directly, by providing them with appropriate materials, monitoring homework and wide-reading, as well as indirectly, by supporting the school and its policies. Parents and students should be well aware that promotion of students to a higher year level is not automatic.

Promotion to Year 9 requires

1. Achieve a Satisfactory standard by:
   ▪ Completing all compulsory assessment tasks (CATs) to a satisfactory standard in all subjects.
   ▪ Obtaining a satisfactory standard for all Work Habits.

2. Have acceptable attendance
   ▪ Minimum attendance of 90%. This means a minimum of 9 days attendance every fortnight.
   ▪ Consistently punctual to class.
   Please note: consideration is also given to the number of school detentions and suspensions received throughout the year.

Inability to meet promotion requirements
If student does not meet these promotion requirements, there are three possible courses of action which will be decided by a panel consisting of the Year 8 co-ordinator, 8 Manager, parents, teachers and student:

1. Offered the chance to repeat the current year level.
2. Promoted to the next year level on a contract which will be reviewed at the end of Term 1.
3. Assisted in transferring to another school or alternative setting.
The Year 8 Program

Core
- English
- Mathematics
- Humanities – History & Geography
- Science
- Physical Education – Sport & Health
- Music - Instrumental (if selected)

Semester subjects
- Art
- Classroom Music
- Drama
- Media
- Technology - Wood
- Technology - Food

LOTE (Languages Other Than English)
- Greek or
- Italian or
- Indonesian or
- Mandarin

Co-curricular
- Inter school sports
- House Sports
- Concert/Stage/Rock Groups
- Music Program/Band
- Instrumental Music Lessons
- Debating
- S.R.C
- Leadership Forums
- Mathematics Competitions
- Science Competitions
- Personal Development Days
- School Musical/Play
Year 8 Curriculum

English

Curriculum Focus

Students are required to participate in a range of activities designed to extend their abilities in the dimensions of English. These activities include the reading and study of texts, which may include novels, short stories, poetry and newspaper articles; the development of strategies for writing a range of text types; and listening to or producing a range of spoken texts.

Reading Program: A wide reading program operates for all students in Year 8. Reading classes are held in the Library. All students are encouraged to read extensively at home as a regular part of their English homework. Parents are requested to take an active interest in monitoring their child’s reading as part of their homework program.

English as an Additional Language

Curriculum Focus

E.A.L (English as an Additional Language) is offered to students who have been in Australia fewer than five years and for those students whose education in English has been interrupted due to living overseas for an extended period of time.

The course is designed to help students gain confidence in using the English language and develop their skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking. E.A.L students are encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities that reinforce the learning of the language.

Humanities - History & Geography

Curriculum Focus

Students will be studying the Vikings and the Middle Ages. Students will be required to complete two major research projects which require them to locate and analyse appropriate resources, evaluate the relevance of information and present their findings in written reports. They will also be required to build on basic mapping skills, analyse information from a range of geographic data and study the impact of geography on human cultures.

Mathematics

Curriculum Focus

The Year 8 Mathematics Program focuses on: Space, Number, Measurement/Chance and Data, Structure and Working Mathematically.

Students are required to keep an organised workbook with all class notes, exercises and homework. Homework should enable students to finish class work, projects and other set tasks. Mathematics homework should be completed according to the Homework timetable.
Science

Curriculum Focus

Students investigate chemical reactions, electric circuits and simple machines. They also investigate nutrition, rocks and body systems. They learn about collecting and analysing information, about team work and about applying a scientific method to problem solving. Students will be expected to maintain an organised work book which will record all class activities, notes, diagrams, results and reports of practical investigations.

Physical Education - Health & Sport

Curriculum Focus

Sport in Year 8 is a continuation of the Year 7 program which encourages students to develop a range of sport skills, an understanding of the various sport rules and tactics, and an appreciation of the codes of behaviour. Students participate in a range of individual and group activities. All students are expected to change into the full school P.E. uniform and are encouraged to wear sunscreen protection and hats during activities in outdoor areas.

Sport and physical education activities are aligned with the inter and intra school sporting programs.

Languages Other Than English - LOTE

Curriculum Focus

LOTE is offered to students from Years 7 to 12. The course aims to develop the skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing, as well as the appreciation of the culture of the country of the LOTE.

The languages offered at Thornbury High School are Greek, Indonesian, Italian and Mandarin.

Year 8 LOTE continues with the study of the language and culture of either Italy, Indonesia, Greece or China through themes relevant to young people. Students will participate in a variety of listening, speaking, reading and writing activities as well as taking part in role plays, singing songs and attending cultural events. Further development of students’ language skills will occur through the use of computer linked software. At least one ICT generated assignment will be completed each semester. In Year 8 the topics will include Nationalities, Sport, Food, Interests and Pastimes.

Art

Curriculum Focus

Students will produce a range of practical works which continue to develop the skills in art and design introduced at Year 7. The program combines both art history and practical art.

Students will:
- Explore and develop ideas in sequential and related topics
- Focus on presentation
- Develop skills in Art criticism

These projects combine the elements of design and include both formal and imaginative processes. The Art and Visual Communication disciplines are incorporated into the year’s study and are complimentary to each other. The theory component is delivered throughout the year. It looks at developing an understanding of the place of art works, in particular, cultural and historical contexts.
Technology Studies

Curriculum Focus
Students in Year 8 will include Food Technology in their Technology Studies. All students will study Food Technology for one semester and Wood Technology Studies in the second semester.

Wood Technology
Students will use a wide range of techniques, equipment and processes to experience problem solving exercises. They will design and produce a finished product. In class students will:
- Research the information concerning their chosen product
- Design a product
- Produce their design using appropriate techniques
- Evaluate the efficiency of their product and the processes used.

Food Technology
Students will prepare and cook a variety of foods suitable for particular ages. They will learn to identify environmental and hereditary factors involved in growth and development. Students will be expected to participate in practical and written assignment activities.

Classroom Music

Curriculum Focus
Students will participate in practical and theory activities including aural training, composing, improvising, interpreting and analysing works. Students will participate in individual and group activities.

Students will be expected to:
- Prepare, select and perform works
- Use appropriate language to describe sounds and to express ideas and feelings
- Show an understanding of the cultural and historical differences in music

Students will be expected to participate in class work and performances. Written assignments are also a requirement of the course.

Media and Drama

Curriculum Focus
Students will be required to participate in a range of Drama and Media activities, role play, improvisation, video production and film analysis. Students will develop and present their ideas through dramatic performance and video production, demonstrating a range of drama and media skills and techniques.

Music – Instrumental

Curriculum Focus
Students who are part of the Performing Arts program attend weekly band rehearsals. They are placed in bands appropriate to their ability. The bands have regular opportunities to play in concert settings. Students are expected to practise each day for approximately 20 to 30 minutes, depending on their level of proficiency.

Students will continue to learn to play an instrument and use this skill to perform with others in a band situation. Students participating in this program must study Music Theory and attend a Music Camp.