Junior School Handbook
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Introduction to Junior School

The aim of the junior years at St Andrews Christian College is to provide a safe, caring environment where students can grow in an understanding of God. Our desire is to equip students with an awareness of who they are in God, and the abilities and gifts they have been given. With this as our foundation, we create an encouraging and challenging learning program that is aimed at catering for different learning abilities. We endeavour to teach students to grow in their ability to learn from a young age, with a focus on teaching thinking skills and the development of positive learning habits. The importance of teaching the students resilience, reasoning and to be reflective is incorporated into our curriculum.

Our teachers begin each day with a devotion time to affirm and encourage the students in their faith. They take every opportunity throughout the day to train our students in the ability to socialize and respect each other. We believe every child should feel safe about their environment both in the playground and the classroom. We teach the students how to relate to each other appropriately through mutual respect and love.

Prayer is a fundamental aspect of our teaching. Our teachers meet corporately to pray for all the students individually, sitting in their seats to get their perspective and answering their requests for prayer. This creates a positive pastoral care environment.
From the first day of our transition program for Prep to the Grade 4 graduation from Junior School our aim is to give our students a wonderful foundation for their whole school journey. Our Junior School students are nurtured in these formative years, so they begin to see the wonderful gifts that God has placed in each one of them. As a staff we believe we have a great responsibility to begin to train our students to be well-mannered, kindhearted, brave, curious, resilient, enthusiastic students, who love God.

The early years at school are a crucial time to create a strong foundation in their education. Literacy, numeracy, creativity, thinking and social skills are all central in the student learning at this stage of their development.

We want to make school fun! We are passionate about creating opportunities for the students that create positive memories for their lifetime. With this focus the Junior School actively plans events in and outside of the classroom to enhance the learning journey of our students through the Junior School.

As our students progress through their Junior School years it is our intention that we provide the support and instill the confidence in them to become independent and responsible. We focus on teaching them thinking skills so they are better able to handle problems and challenges. We work with the parents to develop their children’s gifts and to help them realize their potential with God as their focus.
Values Program in the Junior School

“Many basic values derived from our Judeo-Christian heritage are sliding from view in our Australian society. As more people depart from their belief in Jesus Christ, Christian values such as integrity, compassion, faithfulness, love, peace, honesty, courage and wisdom are less evident” (Rev. David R Nicholas).

Whilst we all fall short of Christ’s standards, it is important that we strive to uphold Christian values in our own lives and in the life of our College. Christ is the cornerstone of all we do at St Andrews Christian College. Our values are based on Christ and from Him flow the values which direct our lifestyle and the DNA of the College.

Understanding, living and growing in Christian values are important for us as a community at St Andrews as we aspire to educate generations of students who are of Godly character, strong in faith and a powerful influence, impacting the world for Christ.

We are developing students who are:
Inspired by Faith
Distinguished by Character
Leaders by Influence

ST ANDREWS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE VALUES FOUNDATION PROGRAM

While there are many Christian values that the College could focus on, we have chosen some core values to uphold, focusing on a one particular value for each school year from Prep through to Year 12.

The undergirding value for each year level is that of “love”. In 1 Corinthians 12:31b, Paul tells us that the excellent way is love.
## THE VALUES FOUNDATION PROGRAM

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Application</th>
<th>Verse</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Every Year</td>
<td>Love</td>
<td>Love is a starting point</td>
<td>For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Courage</td>
<td>Keep on trying as you grow</td>
<td>When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” John 4:7</td>
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<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Patience</td>
<td>Accept different and new things</td>
<td>Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Ephesians 4:2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Compassion</td>
<td>Care for others</td>
<td>Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Romans 12:15</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Have compassion, making a difference. Jude 1:22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Peace</td>
<td>Be kind to everyone</td>
<td>Live in peace with each other. 1 Thessalonians 5:13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Service</td>
<td>Look out for others</td>
<td>Use whatever gifts you have to serve others. 1 Peter 4:10</td>
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Curriculum

Our curriculum is designed to give the students a thorough foundation for lifelong learning. We have a particular focus on providing an in-depth level of Literacy and Numeracy to give our students a basis for branching out into the other learning areas.

Our program provides 2 hours of Literacy and 1 hour of Numeracy every day. We provide specialist teachers to teach key learning areas, so as to deliver a targeted approach to individual learning areas. Our dedicated teachers are highly trained and consistently refine their skills by attending professional development programs and by undertaking further study. We provide a learning assistance co-ordinator who is able to assess and provide the necessary help for students’ learning. Along with a team of ESL and integration aides they provide individual education plans for students in targeted programs and with special needs.

We accelerate our students within and across the year levels, differentiating curriculum and streaming in ability levelled maths groups, from Grade Two. The foundation of our curriculum is based on a strong biblical focus. In all our programming and teaching we align our curriculum with the Bible. God is the foundation of everything we teach at St Andrews. We aim to show students a reflection of God’s grace and love in every learning area.

Key Learning Areas

We provide learning in these key areas:

- Biblical Studies
- Literacy – LEM phonics program
- Numeracy
- Science
- History and Humanities
- French
- Art
- Music
- Health
- PE
- Library and Research
- Thinking Skills
- Sustainability Studies
LEM Phonics Program

LEM is the language program we use at St Andrews. Its focus is on a phonetic approach to reading. Phonetics are the sounds letters create. The program includes listening, speaking, reading, writing and spelling taught together to provide a comprehensive approach to teaching English.

It is a very detailed and extensive approach to reading. It provides a systematic method so that children learn the sounds of the letters and rules that govern where they are placed in words.

LEM phonics is taught from Prep to Year 5.
Programs and Opportunities

We provide many opportunities for our students to experience the world around them and create a godly understanding of service and social responsibility.

Service

We encourage our students to develop a love of service, to each other, to the school and the wider community. We provide opportunities for group collaboration and learning with a particular emphasis on serving each other. Each grade level provides a service to the school community. These may include planting spring bulbs, maintaining the compost system, planting and caring for the vegetable and herb beds or playground responsibilities.

The students provide a service to the wider community every year. Visiting aged care facilities, writing to our mission focus school in Vanuatu or raising money for our World Vision child.

Sport

Our staff and parents run a Perceptual Motor Program, PMP, for the Prep and Grade One students. Our students participate in an inter-school sports programs and we have a structured annual swimming program from Prep to Grade Four. Our specialist PE teachers provide an opportunity for students to participate in a Junior School sports event along with opportunities to engage in school basketball teams, dance and tennis.

Our Junior School students have enjoyed a wonderful sporting and outdoors education program, with opportunities including swimming, basketball, dancing, tennis, soccer, cricket and gymnastics. The Junior School students were involved in their own tabloid sports day and the Year 3 and 4 students participated in the interschool sports and swimming carnivals.
CREATIVE ARTS

The students have the opportunity to display their art in our annual art show and are taught by an experienced artist. We have a specific art focus week where students get to have instruction from an “Artist-in-Residence”. Students participate in musical productions, both with the whole school and as a Junior School. Both Drama and Music are incorporated in weekly lessons where students can experience a range of musical styles and theatrical experiences.

CHESS

We have a very successful chess program providing opportunities to learn individually and join our teams which have competed at state level with great success.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Students from Grade One participate in our annual Public Speaking Competition. This teaches the students, from a young age, to stand and speak with confidence in front of their peers. This culminates in an opportunity to speak in front of the whole school and prominent members of our community.
Camps and Excursions

In Year 2 the students begin the outdoor/camp education program with a “stay-late”. This event is run after school on a Friday near the end of Term 4. It is a wonderful way for the students to experience the independence that this program develops.

The Year 3 and 4 students enjoy some fantastic camp experiences as part of the outdoor education program. This includes horse riding, ropes courses, flying foxes, sliding down giant water slides, shooting arrows, hiking and cooking.

Throughout the year there are many excursions and incursion activities.

Some of the excursions include visits to:
- Werribee Zoo
- The Aquarium
- IMAX
- The Museum
- Chesterfield Farm
- Healesville Sanctuary
- Rickett’s Point
- The Botanical Gardens
- A City adventure
- Art Gallery

Incursions include:
- Visit to CSIRO
- History Box performers
- Reptiles Adventures
- Toy Machine Creations
Music

The musical talents of the Junior School students are celebrated through various concerts including a drum soiree, piano concerts, strings performances, Junior School choir performances, student run Junior School assemblies and our annual Christmas concert.

Instrumental Tuition

At St Andrews Christian College we believe music to be an essential part of education in developing confidence and the gifts of students. We offer private singing and instrumental lessons for the following:

- Piano
- Violin
- Viola
- Cello
- Double Bass
- Clarinet
- Saxophone
- Voice
- Trombone
- Trumpet
- Bass Guitar
- Guitar – Classical
- Guitar – Contemporary
- Drum Kit
- Flute

There are many benefits to being involved in the music program for students:

- Improved self-esteem and self-identity
- Enhanced fine motor skills and general co-ordination
- Improved social skills and cross-age networks
- Improved academic performance especially in mathematics
- Developing independent learning habits and time management skills
- Improved aural skills and listening skills
- Giving students a meaningful form of personal expression and communication
- Developing self-discipline and concentration skills
- Growing an appreciation and awareness of music
Lunch time Activities

We provide a range of lunchtime activities that the children can participate in, these include:

- Student run bible study
- Gardening club
- Craft club
- Puzzle club
- Table tennis
- Walking club
- Construction club
Gifted and Talented

We celebrate the gifts that God has given all students at St Andrews and it is our desire to cater for these gifts in our programs.

We do run various programs to extend our gifted students such as:

- Streamed Maths classes from Year 2
- Grade skip acceleration
- University competitions
- Mastery weeks where students are withdrawn from class for extension
- Classroom differentiation and extension
- Accelerated reading program, available to all students from Year 4
Program: A Typical Day

Here is an example of a typical daily program in the Junior School. Lesson details will change depending on the day of the week.

8:40  Devotions
9:00  Spelling (LEM phonics program)
      10 minutes of fitness or fruit snack
10:00 Biblical Studies
10:40 Recess playtime
11:00 Maths
12:00 Literacy
      (Literacy lessons may include Grammar; Writing; LEM phonics spelling rules; & Reading comprehension)
12:45 Lunchtime (eat together as a class)
12:55 Lunch playtime
1:40  Reading
1:50  Science
2:30  Specialist Subject
3:15/3:20 Students dismissed