VISION, MISSION AND INTRODUCTION

VISION STATEMENT

Our Motto “strength and gentleness” inspires us to be faithful to our Catholic tradition, to persevere in the face of adversity, to respond creatively to those in need around us, and to be hopeful, resilient and courageous in moving forward in the presence of Jesus.

So based and so inspired, our College community seeks to see in each person the image of God and thus to develop excellence in our caring, teaching and learning. We value each of our students as an individual and seek to promote her full development, spiritually, intellectually and socially.

We desire to awaken each to her dream, her capacities, her freedom and her choices.

MISSION STATEMENT

In following St Brigid’s vision, Kildare College is committed to creating a student-centred learning community seeking to live out the message of Jesus Christ and the Gospels. In Kildare Ministries in the Brigidine tradition, we seek to:

Be faithful to our Catholic Heritage;

Welcome all people, especially the most vulnerable;

Celebrate all that is good with joy and gratitude;

Engender a love of learning, hope and a sense of purpose;

Image and Practise justice and service.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Curriculum Booklet for Year 8 at Kildare College. This booklet reflects the exciting range of learning opportunities available to students as they embark on their years of middle schooling. The aim of the booklet is to provide information to students and their families about the subjects on offer to enable students to prepare for a positive and committed start to their schooling at Kildare College.

The curriculum in the middle years at Kildare College follows the new Australian Curriculum, which has been implemented in the areas of Arts, English, Health and Physical Education, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences; other subjects are being gradually incorporated into the Australian Curriculum following a process of government approval.

The Australian Curriculum specifies Achievement Standards for each learning area as well as guidelines for teaching core capabilities including literacy, numeracy, critical thinking and ICT across the curriculum.

Year 8 students follow a core curriculum, maintaining balance across a wide range of subjects. They also have an opportunity to select four from five elective subjects from the Arts and Design and Hospitality curriculum to build on their emergent interests and strengths.

The curriculum at Kildare College is designed to ensure that students acquire the knowledge, skills, values and attributes essential to their learning and their future careers. In the middle years of schooling adolescents need to be engaged and challenged by their learning in an environment that both nurtures and encourages excellence. In a girls’ school learning environment, young women “stop being the audience and become the players”. (D and M Sadler)

We are proud of the teaching and learning that engages students at Kildare College through the core curriculum, a diverse range of elective subjects and the numerous co-curricular and extra-curricular activities available.

We value the support from parents and families as partners in the education of their children and know that we work together in encouraging our young women to fulfil their learning potential.

Please read through the booklet carefully. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at the College.

Annette Lamont
Acting Director of Teaching and Learning
**DANCE**

Length of Course: One semester

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Students develop an awareness of the safety and discipline involved in dance. They learn about different dance styles and develop an understanding of the place of dance not just in our society, but globally. Students are introduced to the fundamental elements and techniques used to create dance and are given opportunities to choreograph, evaluate and present dance in a public arena. Dance technique, including: warm up, barre and floor stretches, plus basic principles of dance training – posture, body alignment and deportment are taught, developing students understanding of the general structure and format of a dance class. Through dance students begin to appreciate spatial awareness, time, energy and self motivation.

Students are assessed through:
- Technique
- Performance
- Composition
- Dance Theory

Subject Requirements: Students must wear their P.E. uniform and/or black tights for all dance classes. A note from parents/caregivers is required for all students who are unable to participate in practical work.

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**ENGLISH**

Length of Course: Full year

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In English, students develop knowledge, understanding and skills in listening, reading, viewing, speaking, writing and creating text. They build on concepts, skills and processes developed in their primary schooling, and teachers revisit and strengthen these as needed. Knowledge of text structure and language features is further developed along with literary analyses and transformations of texts.

A range of texts are explored - novel, short stories, film, poetry and media texts. These texts present different cultural viewpoints so that students have the opportunity to interpret, evaluate and perform a range of responses in spoken, written and multimodal form. These studies also provide opportunities to explore ideas about themselves, their community and globally. Students develop their understanding of how texts, including media texts, are influenced by context, purpose and audience.

Literary texts explored comprise Australian literature, including the oral narrative traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, as well as the contemporary literature of these two cultural groups, and classic and contemporary world literature, including texts from and about Asia. There is a focus on continuing to develop independent readers and a range of realistic, fantasy, speculative fiction and historical genres are used that involve some challenging and unpredictable plot sequences and a range of non-stereotypical characters. Study portfolios include:
- Shared Novel
- Short Story
- Poetry
- Film
- Text Production (written and oral)
- Language and Usage
GIRLS ACHIEVE PROGRAM

Length of Course: Full year

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Foundational to the wellbeing of the Kildare Community is the Girls Achieve Program which is based on the belief that each person is of infinite worth and that each person matters absolutely.

The Girls Achieve Program is seen as a partnership bringing together all contributors to the school’s life, such as parents, students, staff, and community agencies. This program helps to foster the growth and potential of each person physically, mentally, intellectually, morally, spiritually, emotionally, socially and academically.

The Girls Achieve Program seeks to address current pastoral care issues which are complex and wide ranging through the help of the following programs:

- Mind matters
- Keep safe
- Made in the Image of God
- Child Protection curriculum
- Choice Theory

Whilst these programs are embedded in many areas of the curriculum, one lesson per week is dedicated to the curriculum aspect within the overall Girls Achieve Program.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Length of Course: One semester

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Year 8 Health and Physical Education is composed of two lessons of PE and one Health lesson per week. In Physical Education lessons students will participate in a variety of health-related and skill-related physical activities and sports. In Health lessons, students will learn how to take positive action to maintain and enhance their own and others’ health, safety and wellbeing.

Practical activities may include:
- Athletics
- Soccer
- Netball
- Volleyball
- Softball

Health topics include:
- Alcohol and other drugs
- Health of individuals and communities
- Mental health
- Relationships and Sexuality
- Safety

Learning activities:
- Small sided games and activities
- Participation in physical activities
- Group discussions
- Role plays
- Written exercises
- Individual and group work

Assessment
- Practical skills rubrics
- Self and peer assessments
- Written tasks

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Length of Course: Full year

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Incorporating the study of History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship and Economics and Business, HASS provides the opportunity for students to learn about the world in which they live while equipping them with the necessary skills to be active members of society.

At Year 8, the course focuses on the skills of inquiry focusing on the topics of:

- Children’s Rights and Responsibilities
- Mapping
- Landforms
- Coastal Environments - Fieldwork
- Medieval Europe & Medieval Japan
- The Black Death
- Australian Government
- Mega cities
- Economic issues

Learning Activities Include:
- Enquiry based projects
- Field Trip
- Excursions
- Medieval Fair
**INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY**

**Length of Course:** Full year

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The aim of this course is to further develop and consolidate the skills, knowledge and understanding acquired by the students in primary school and equip them with core ICT capabilities to support learning across the curriculum.

This course has a number of focus areas:

- ICT Introduction
- Cyber Safety
- File / Folder Management
- ICT Theory
- Advanced Word and Graphics
- Correct use of PowerPoint
- Spreadsheets using Excel
- Movie making using Windows Live Movie Maker
- Prezi

In this course there is significant emphasis on major projects which require designing, producing and critiquing.

**MATHEMATICS**

**Length of Course:** Full year

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

At Kildare the Mathematics team use a variety of teaching styles including hands on inquiry tasks and online programs. We work to ensure all students boost their confidence and enjoyment of Mathematics.

The topics covered fit into three main areas:

- Number and Algebra
- Measurement and Geometry
- Statistics and Probability

Through studying Mathematics at Year 8 students gain an appreciation that maths is not about numbers, but is a way of explaining and understanding the world around us.

Learning Activities Include:

- Practical activities and investigations
- Inquiry tasks
- Individual and group work
- Topic tests

**ITALIAN**

**Length of Course:** Full year

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In the study of Italian, students will develop their communication skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. They will learn how to interpret and express their thoughts, emotions and experiences through a variety of spoken and written texts.

Students will develop skills in understanding how languages work. Learners will also broaden their understanding of the inter-relationships of language and culture, exploring the values, traditions and everyday life of people in Italy.

Topics Include:

- Greetings and basic vocabulary
- Nationalities and languages
- School in Italy
- The family
- The environment
- Geography of Italy
- Italian food

Learning Activities Include:

- Inquiry task on Rome
- Italian Regions and Geography
- Role plays and learning games
- Italian movies
- Italian songs
- Cooking and eating Italian food
- Inquiry task about Italian culture, products or country

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Length of Course:** Full year

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The units undertaken are:

- What is religion?
- Jesus
- St Brigid
- Creation
- Church Celebrations

The retreat, which is a compulsory part of the course, has the theme “Being Connected”.

Learning activities include:

- Short answer responses
- Research based assignments
- Group presentations
- Power Point presentation
- Reflective tasks
**SCIENCE**

Length of Course: Full year

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Year 8 students are introduced to the many facets of science, including a range of scientific concepts, identification of the different strands of science and what it means to work scientifically. They are familiarised in the use of scientific apparatus and required to participate in a range of experiments. Students are encouraged to participate in various science competitions throughout the course of their schooling. Students will be able to identify how science is an important part of their everyday lives.

Topics Include:
- Working scientifically – an introduction to what it means to work in the area of Science
- Cells
- Body systems
- States of matter
- Elements, compounds and mixtures
- Chemical change
- Sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks
- Transferring and transforming energy

Assessment will consist of topic tests and investigations each semester.

Learning Activities Include:
- Inquiry Task
- Practical activities, demonstrations and investigations
- Individual and group work
- Topic tests

**STEM**

Length of Course: Full year

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The design-thinking based course will integrate maths, science and ICT curriculum. Students will learn the tools entrepreneurs use including how to identify problems, validate solutions, create viable products and pitch ideas. They will think creatively and use problem-solving skills to transform their ideas into reality.

The course may have a range of strands which will be introduced after an initial induction period.

- Lego Robotics
- Wearable technology
- Electronics
- App-based software

Students will be assessed using the Australian Curriculum General Capabilities.
ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

ART

Length of Course: One semester

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Year 8 Art focuses on enhancing the skills and knowledge of the students, ensuring that they develop an understanding of the elements and principles that are applied in Art.

Moreover, through the introduction of different art techniques, mediums, styles of art and artists, students will be able to grow perceptive of the artistic world around them, naturally enhancing their thought processes and creativity.

Assessment is based on the students’ skill development, visual demonstration and understanding of different art styles inspired by various practitioners’ work, together with students’ knowledge of different art techniques.

Learning Activities include:
• Colour Theory
• Fine Drawing
• Painting
• 3D Construction

FOOD & FABRIC TECHNOLOGY

Length of Course: One semester

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course allows students to develop and use a range of practical skills in food and fabric technology. Students will work individually and in small groups throughout the semester. The course is designed so that students participate in both theory and practical activities.

Students will have the opportunity to explore a variety of recipes to gain an understanding of basic cookery techniques. They will also plan and design a product such as a toy, pencil case, pillow, or wheat bag.

Topics include:
• The design process
• Safety in the kitchen
• Following a recipe and using a timeplan
• Cooking techniques
• Creative design
• Hand sewing skills
• Machine sewing skills

Learning activities:
• Research assignment
• Individual and group work
• Practical work
• Written reflection

DRAMA

Length of Course: One semester

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will work in small groups, individually and as an ensemble throughout the semester. Students will have the opportunity to learn improvisation and mime skills vital for performance. Students study a range of performance styles and techniques. They demonstrate their understanding and development of their performance skills in a range of class based performance exercises and workshops. This will culminate in them participating in a class performance to another class within their year level.

Within this unit students will also learn the skills needed for setting up sets, props, lighting and smoke machines, as well as costumes and makeup.

Topics Include:
• The parts of the stage
• Improvisation
• Tableaux
• Character creation and development
• Performance

Assessment will consist of journal entries as well as a range of performance tasks.
OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Length of Course: One semester

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Outdoor Education is a challenging and rewarding subject that is designed to give students a safe introduction to outdoor adventure activities in an environment that fosters teamwork and challenges their personal boundaries. Students explore their understanding of outdoor pursuits, with the view to allow students to see if in future years they would like to continue to a greater depth.

Topics Include:
- Bush skills
- Map and compass work
- Survival Skills
- Rope Activities
- Team Building Activities
- Overnight Camp

MUSIC

Length of Course: One semester

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Music is geared towards giving students a positive experience of music through a very practical based approach.

This course assumes no previous music knowledge or experience.

The course is designed to offer students basic skills and techniques on the drum kit, bass guitar, guitar, keyboard and voice. Once students have experienced all of these instruments and developed some basic skills, a class band is formed. The class band develops knowledge of working collaboratively in a band situation as well as providing performance opportunities. Students who have experience playing another instrument are invited to play their chosen instrument in the band in addition to those covered in class.

Music theory is covered and students learn how to practically apply key concepts and ideas.

Topics Include:
- Treble and Bass clef note recognition including ledger lines
- Note and rest values
- Simple time signatures
- Structure and form

Opportunities exist to extend and challenge students that have a music theory background.