INTRODUCTION


Curriculum delivered at Murray Bridge High School is underpinned by the National Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians. The declaration states:

In the 21st Century Australia’s capacity to provide a high quality of life for all will depend on the ability to compete in the global economy on knowledge and innovation. Education equips young people with the knowledge, understanding, skills and values to take advantage of opportunity and to face the challenges of this era with confidence.

Schools play a vital role in promoting the intellectual, physical, social, emotional, moral, spiritual and aesthetic development and wellbeing of young Australians, and in ensuring the nation’s ongoing economic prosperity and social cohesion (extracted from MCEETYA, Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for young Australians, 2008).

There are two broad educational goals for all young Australians:

**GOAL 1:** Australian schooling promotes equity and excellence.
**GOAL 2:** All young Australians become successful learners, confident and creative individuals and active and informed citizens.

To meet these goals Murray Bridge High School offers two curriculum streams: the Australian Curriculum and the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE).

**Middle School**

Year 8 – Australian Curriculum
Year 9 – Australian Curriculum

**Senior School**

Year 10 – Australian Curriculum and South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE)
Year 11 – South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE)
Year 12 – South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE)

Further information on curriculum and subject offerings at Year 8 can be found in this booklet or at the relevant Curriculum Authority websites.

Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA): [www.acara.edu.au](http://www.acara.edu.au)

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

At Murray Bridge High School students in Year 8, 9 and 10 study the Australian Curriculum, as set by the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA).

ACARA was set up by the Australian Government in conjunction with all the state and territory Ministers of Education through an act of Parliament in 2008. The Australian Curriculum sets out what all young Australians are to learn, and the expected quality of learning, as they progress through schooling.

ACARA is responsible for:
- A national curriculum in eight specific learning areas.
- A national assessment program aligned to the national curriculum that measures students’ progress.
- A national data collection and reporting program.

The 8 Learning Areas are:
- English
- Mathematics
- Science (including Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Earth Science)
- Humanities and Social Sciences (including History, Geography, Economics and Business, Civics and Citizenship)
- The Arts (Performing and Visual)
- Health and Physical Education
- Languages other than English (LOTE)
- Design and Technology and Digital Technology

In 2017, all learning areas will be taught, assessed and moderated using the Australian Curriculum

The school community can access ACARA updates at www.acara.edu.au.
MIDDLE SCHOOL – YEAR 8
SUBJECT OFFERINGS FOR 2017

SUBJECT SELECTION

All students in Year 8 study a range of Australian Curriculum subjects. Murray Bridge High School aims to provide every student with the knowledge, understanding and skills that provide a foundation for successful and lifelong learning and participation in the Australian community. High Expectations will be set for all students. All Year 8 students will study a combination of subjects that provide a range of valuable experiences and lead to the successful completion of the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE).

We know that for students to be successful in Senior School, they need to have practiced and mastered the skills presented in classes from Year 8 through to Year 10 in all subject areas. Students who do not demonstrate competency in the subjects of the year level they are currently in will not automatically progress to the next year level. This decision has been endorsed by Governing Council. The school will work individually with students and parents/caregivers in order to provide the tools for a student to prove competency and lift work ethic.

YEAR 8 CURRICULUM

Compulsory Subjects - Full Year

English or English as an Additional Language (EAL)
Mathematics
Physical Education and Health
Science

Compulsory Subject - 1 Semester

HASS - Geography
HASS - History

Compulsory Language – Full Year¹

Chinese for Background Speakers OR
Chinese Continuers OR
German

Choice Subjects - 1 Term²

Agriculture
Dance
Drama
Music
Music Advanced³
Technologies – Digital Technology
Technologies – Home Economics
Technologies - Technology Studies
Visual Art

Please Note:

¹All students will develop Information Communication Technology (ICT) capabilities thorough ICT units embedded in their Compulsory Language course.

² Students who do not study Advanced Music will study 4 one term choice subjects.

³Students who study Advanced Music choose two additional term subjects and study one semester of Physical Education and Health. Participation in the Music Advanced program is through application to the Music faculty. Music Advanced students will have been studying an instrument in Primary School.
# Year 8 Compulsory Subjects

## Chinese
**Course Length**: Full Year  
**Australian Curriculum Year Level**: 8  
**Description**: This is an introduction to Mandarin Chinese for students wishing to study it as a 2nd language. Students develop speaking, listening, reading, character writing and word processing skills for use in communicating in everyday situations.  
**Recommended Background**: Nil  
**Additional Costs/Information**: It is recommended that students purchase the Oxford Starter Chinese Dictionary.

## Chinese for Background Speakers
**Course Length**: Full Year  
**Australian Curriculum Year Level**: 8  
**Description**: This subject is for students who have a cultural and linguistic background in Chinese. Because of student numbers, this subject will be vertically grouped.  
**Recommended Background**: Students must be native speakers and writers of Chinese.  
**Additional Costs/Information**: It is recommended that students purchase a Chinese-English Dictionary.

## English
**Course Length**: Full Year  
**Australian Curriculum Year Level**: 8  
**Description**: English will develop students' abilities to engage with increasingly complex texts across a range of contexts. Students will engage with prose texts, poetry, drama, film and other media. They will develop skills in the use of the English language for a variety of purposes focusing on improved accuracy and fluency. Students will be assessed using the Australian Curriculum Achievement Standards for English.  
**Recommended Background**: Nil  
**Additional Costs/Information**: Nil

## English as an Additional Language (EAL)
**Course Length**: Full Year  
**Australian Curriculum Year Level**: 8  
**Description**: EAL gives students the opportunity to develop their skills in listening, viewing, reading, speaking and writing, so as to develop their ability to make choices in English that are accurate, to express ideas in English and to interact confidently with other people. Students will study three interrelated areas; Texts and Contexts, Language, and Strategies. Because of student numbers, this subject will be vertically grouped. Students are formally assessed through a range of oral and written assessment tasks.  
**Recommended Background**: This subject is designed for students for whom English is not their first language.  
**Additional Costs/Information**: Nil

## German
**Course Length**: Full Year  
**Australian Curriculum Year Level**: 8  
**Description**: Students are introduced to German at a beginner level. The emphasis is on communication in German in everyday situations. Students also learn about aspects of geography and the way of life in countries where German is spoken. The curriculum covers the following areas: Communication, Understanding Language and Understanding Culture.  
**Recommended Background**: Nil  
**Additional Costs/Information**: Nil
HASS - Geography

**Course Length**: 1 Semester

**Australian Curriculum Year Level**: 8

**Description**: Students develop geographical knowledge about a variety of world environments, peoples, and places, including Australia. They learn to ask geographical questions, collect and analyse information, reach conclusions based on evidence and logical reasoning and communicate findings using geographical methods. Students study two units: Landscapes and landforms, a physical geography unit about geomorphic processes which shape landforms in different landscapes, and Changing Nations, a human geography unit about challenges of urbanisation.

**Recommended Background**: Nil

**Additional Costs/Information**: Students are encouraged to participate a fieldwork activity which may incur a cost for transport and entry fees (if applicable) of approximately $15.

HASS - History

**Course Length**: 1 Semester

**Australian Curriculum Year Level**: 8

**Description**: The history studied is from the end of the ancient period to the beginning of the modern period, c.650 AD (CE) – 1750. Students study broad patterns of historical change, including the transformation of the Roman world and the spread of Christianity and Islam. They learn about key features of the medieval age and the emergence of ideas about the world and the place of people in it, during this period. Students develop valuable critical thinking skills of analysing, interpreting and drawing conclusions by examining historical sources.

**Recommended Background**: Nil

**Additional Costs/Information**: Students are encouraged to participate in an excursion at a cost of approximately $15 for transport and/or entry fees.

Mathematics

**Course Length**: Full Year

**Australian Curriculum Year Level**: 8

**Description**: Mathematics provides students with essential mathematical skills and knowledge in Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. The curriculum focuses on developing increasingly sophisticated and refined mathematical understanding, fluency, logical reasoning, analytical thought and problem-solving skills. These proficiencies enable students to respond to familiar and unfamiliar situations by employing mathematical strategies to think critically and creatively and to solve problems efficiently.

**Recommended Background**: Year 7 Mathematics

**Additional Costs/Information**: Students require their own scientific calculator for use in class. Scientific calculators are available from the Student Services Office for an approximate cost of $22. All students are encouraged to participate in external competitions and events such as the Australian Mathematics Competition and the MASA Quiz Night at costs generally under $5 each.
## Physical Education and Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Length</th>
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<th>Description</th>
<th>Recommended Background</th>
<th>Additional Costs/Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full Year</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Students have the opportunity to learn new skills and the importance of regular physical activity. Students also study health topics including nutrition, drugs and alcohol, sexual health and relationships.</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>All students must change into the Murray Bridge High School PE uniform for practical lessons. All students have the opportunity to be involved in a team building day at Monarto Zoo at a small cost of approximately $25.</td>
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## Science

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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Full Year</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Students will study units of work that are based on the Australian Curriculum guidelines and related to: Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Earth and Space. Students will be assessed using the Australian Curriculum Achievement Standards for Science.</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Agriculture

**Contact:** Serena Werner  

<table>
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<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Term</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Students undertake an introduction to Agriculture at the school’s Roper Road Farm. Topics for study include farm safety, raising poultry for profit, sheep and cattle husbandry and vegetable production.</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Appropriate clothing and footwear for outside work at Roper Road is required. Students working outside for extended periods are expected, under WHS guidelines, to wear a hat and sun protection.</td>
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### Dance

**Contact:** Rachel Baltussen  

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<tr>
<td>1 Term</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Students develop an awareness of the safety and discipline involved in dance. They learn about the many different styles of dance 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 create, evaluate and present dance. Students reflect and evaluate their own work.</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Students must bring a change of clothes for each lesson.</td>
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### Drama

**Contact:** Emily Adams  

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<thead>
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<tr>
<td>1 Term</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>In this course, students will learn skills in the following areas: Introduction to Drama and stage craft, Movement/Mime, Voice, Improvisation, Characterisation, Split scenes and History of the Theatre. Focus in all areas will be on the student as both a performer and spectator.</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Music

**Contact:** Sean Hickey/Alex McFarlane  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>1 Term</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>An introduction to Music, which includes the following areas of study: modern music notation, instrumental tryouts on drum kit, piano, guitar, bass guitar and singing and the role of music in society. Students gain experience on various instruments in preparation for Music in Year 9. Students will have the opportunity to begin instrumental tuition to assist them in future studies.</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Music Advanced

**Contact:** Sean Hickey/Alex McFarlane  

**Course Length:** Full Year  

**Australian Curriculum Year Level:** 8  

**Description:**  
Through detailed study of all aspects related to Music, students will maintain the necessary skills to increase their proficiency on their chosen instrument playing as part of a class ensemble and extra-curricular ensembles. Students will be required to undertake professional tuition in one of the following instruments for the entire year: Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Voice, Keyboard/Piano, Guitar, Bass Guitar, Drum Kit or Percussion. They will have the opportunity to attend workshops with guest artists and develop their understanding of Composition through the use of technology such as, GarageBand for iPad. Students will also complete Units of Competency towards a Certificate II in Music.  

**Recommended Background:** Students need to be already learning a musical instrument at Primary School and must apply via the application form in the Year 8 enrolment pack.  

**Possible Pathways:** Year 9 Music (Advanced)  

**Additional Costs/Information:** Students will need to hire or own their own instrument. Instrumental lessons are a requirement of being enrolled in Music. Some instrumental lessons are provided by DECD Instrumental Music (IM) free of charge, while other lessons will be at a cost (see instrumental consent form for details). A nominal subject fee of $10 is also charged to cover the music workshops, excursions and books.

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### Technologies – Digital Technology

**Contact:** Steven Barclay  

**Course Length:** 1 Term  

**Australian Curriculum Year Level:** 8  

**Description:**  
This course consists of competencies of the Australian Curriculum Digital Technology. Students will be introduced to the school’s computer network and its procedures. They will be taken through a Cybersafety program outlining the necessities of staying safe online. Students will also complete units of work in Programming in Kodu, Binary Data Representation and Data Communication.  

**Recommended Background:** Nil  

**Additional Costs/Information:** 8GB flash drive

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### Technologies – Home Economics

**Contact:** Cathy Schiller  

**Course Length:** 1 Term  

**Australian Curriculum Year Level:** 8  

**Description:**  
Students begin to develop their understanding of the Design Cycle and how it can be used to find solutions to needs or problems working with food or fabric. They develop skills in food preparation and kitchen safety including: use of equipment, ingredients, timing, recipe reading and food terminology. In fabrics students develop sewing skills in the construction of an article using Aboriginal dot painting as a means for their final concept.  

**Recommended Background:** Nil  

**Additional Costs/Information:** WHS requirements of closed in shoes and long hair tied back in every lesson.

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### Technologies – Technology Studies

**Contact:** David Berresford  

**Course Length:** 1 Term  

**Australian Curriculum Year Level:** 8  

**Description:**  
This course gives practical experience using wood, metal, plastics and photographic equipment. It is a skill-based course in which students learn to work with a variety of materials. Workshop availability may dictate course content. There is an emphasis on the design cycle. Students are also introduced to technical drawing techniques. WHS is a significant component of this subject.  

**Recommended Background:** Nil  

**Additional Costs/Information:** WHS requirements of closed in footwear is essential; apron and safety glasses are to be worn in every lesson.
# Visual Art

**Course Length** | 1 Term  
**Australian Curriculum Year Level** | 8  
**Description**  
The Visual Arts course provides a broad introduction to practical skill development through the study of Visual Art techniques, methods and materials. Students will plan, create and reflect on art works in drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics and sculpture. An awareness of the basic design elements and principals is developed during the course. Research and analysis tasks will relate to practical work with historical and cultural aspects of Visual Art.

**Recommended Background** | Nil  
**Additional Costs/Information** | One A4 Visual Arts Workbook will be provided.

**Contact:** Alan Bruse/Elyssa Kreher