

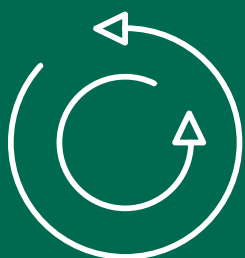


Year 7 and 8 Handbook



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More Information

For further up to date information and communications please visit our website
www.blackburnhs.vic.edu.au

The purpose of this Booklet is to provide an overview of our school structures, learning programs and general information to help answer any questions you may have as you transition into Blackburn High School. We hope that you find this a useful resource.

Blackburn High School

Our school values of *Respect, Pursuit of Excellence and Citizenship* together with our motto *Ad Lucem Crescimus* are central to our culture of high expectations for all. We are an inclusive learning community where quality relationships are nurtured. Blackburn High School's Learning Norms form the foundation of the high expectations and aspirations we have for all students. The Learning Norms promote preparation, foster resilience and endeavour to impart a passion for lifelong learning.

Respect

Of oneself, others and of learning are displayed through honesty, integrity, consideration and the celebration of diversity in a safe and inclusive environment. We teach students to have due regard for the opinions, feelings, wishes and rights of others.

Pursuit of Excellence

Students are supported to reach their full potential by developing wide-ranging skills and capabilities, and to show growth academically, personally and socially. We value and celebrate effort and achievement. We motivate students to do their best, at whatever level that may be, by nurturing a culture of striving for excellence which in turn opens up the pathways to success.

Learning Norms

We speak to students about doing their best learning each day. We have learning norms for students and staff, which we believe leads to effective learning.

Our learning norms are:

- We enter the class on time, prepared and willing to actively contribute to our learning.
- We learn from our mistakes.
- We challenge ourselves and others to do our best.
- We value curiosity, creativity, and thinking.
- We behave in a respectful and constructive way.

Citizenship

Students are encouraged to become active and informed citizens through their participation at a local, national and global level. We teach students the skills and knowledge to understand and engage with the world they live in.

This is demonstrated through involvement in the rich opportunities within the school and wider communities. Students are supported to take increasing responsibility for their own learning, their relationships with others and their participation in all aspects of their school life.





The Art

Online Learning and Parent Portal

XUNO
FAMILY



At Blackburn High School, we believe a student learns best when the family and school are working in partnership with the common goal of achieving the best possible educational outcomes. To that end, our school has an online management system, the **XUNO** Parent Portal is designed to provide students and parents with secure, direct access to school information. Parents are given a secure login to access the system. *Students should never have access to or use their parents' login details.*

The Parent Portal permits access to all kinds of helpful information and updates:

- **Student Timetable** – parents can see what their child's daily schedule is at any time of the school day, including instrumental lessons, sport, and extra-curricular programs
- **Assessment Tasks** – when they are due, and whether those tasks have been submitted or not completed
- **Attendance Records** – including late arrivals or early departures (parents are sent an SMS if the student has been marked absent from a Mentor and/or Session 1 class)
- **Absence & Approvals** – Allows to give reasons for absences well as advice on upcoming absences
- **Interim and Semester Reports** – a chronological history is kept for each student

- **Schedule Progress conferences** – book appointments
- **Events** – provide parent consent
- **School fees** – Make payments and scheduled instalment plans
- **Alerts** – receive alerts about outstanding work, excursions and important information specifically related to the student
- **News** – receive news items specifically tailored to the student

Responsible Use of Technology Agreement

Students are expected to adhere to the school's Responsible Use of ICT Agreement. All families are expected to read and accept the Agreement. The Agreement needs to be signed by both parents and the student on the Parent Portal.

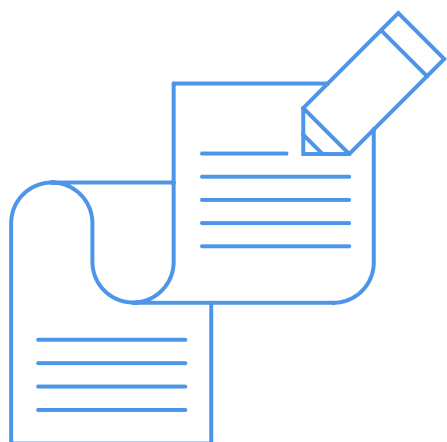
Key points of the agreement include:

- Bringing a charged device to school every day
- Checking the school email account regularly
- Keeping mobile phones in lockers from 8:35 am to the end of the school day
- Keeping earphones in the lockers unless instructed to use them by a teacher
- Keeping computers in lockers at recess and lunchtime
- Abiding by the responsible use guidelines and using technology appropriately

Bring Your Own Device Program (BYOD)

For more information on this program and the Device Imaging Schedule, please visit the school website and download a copy of the booklet. This can be found on the school homepage under the **BYOD** tile.

Curriculum – Learning and Teaching



Blackburn High School offers a curriculum designed around the needs of all students. We aim not only to differentiate what we teach, but also how we teach, recognising that students have different ways of learning. Each year, every student in Years 7–10 develops goals targeted to improve their learning.

In the early years, the main focus is on students making the successful transition to secondary school. The structure of the curriculum for Years 7–9 reflects the belief that all students need to learn from each of the Learning Areas. Each Learning Area encompasses rich activities and incursions and/or excursions. This complements classroom teaching and engages students in the knowledge, skills, understanding and enjoyment of the subject.

The subjects at Year 7 and 8 levels are:

English, Maths, Science, Humanities,
Language - French, PE & Health,
Classroom Music, Drama, Art, Technology,
Year 7 Sport.

Each term your child will be offered a choice of 3-4 seasonal sports for your Sport Education class. Here they will spend time learning the rules, skills and focusing on the team tactics of their chosen sport. Each term they will then have the opportunity to represent the school in the Round Robin Competition that takes place on a single day, off campus, competing against other Whitehorse schools. They will have the opportunity to represent Blackburn High School in a different sport each term.

Subject Competitions

We encourage student participation in a range of external subject competitions offered throughout the year to extend and enrich students learning opportunities and experiences.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)

STEM is integral to building creative and critical thinkers and is a focus of our curriculum. Design thinking projects are embedded through a range of units in the 7–10 Science curriculum which enables the students to solve problems linking to the world around them. The students get an opportunity to learn about technology and coding in the Year 7/8 Digital Technologies subject which they will have for one semester each year. They will also develop hands on engineering skills in the Year 7/8 Materials Technology subject which they will have for one semester each year. Our mathematics curriculum challenges students through problem solving tasks which are dispersed throughout the course to gets students applying their knowledge and skills in new ways.

High Achievers Program

Each year we have one class of Year 7 students in the High Achievers Program (HAP). These students have successfully undergone a testing and interview process. While this class covers the same topics as the wider Year 7 cohort, they seek to explore ideas more deeply, question further and improve their reasoning and higher order thinking skills. This class stays together through Years 7–9.

Booklist Information

Booklists for all year levels are available online through Lilydale books in Term 4 each year, and all ordering and payment is done online directly with the supplier.

Booklists will need to be completed by a date towards the end of December for the following year. Orders placed by the due date will be delivered to a home address for free until a specified date and then a flat rate fee after that date, you can discuss with Lilydale other alternatives as well but we recommend taking up the free delivery window of time.

The due date for orders and the book collection date for the relevant year, will be clearly set out online when you place your order.

Please refer to the Blackburn High School website for information on current [booklists](#).

Extra Curricular Opportunities

Outside the classroom, students can choose from the extensive range of co-curricular activities that supports their personal growth and development and connectedness to the school community. Some of these include:

Camps

Taking learning and the curriculum outside the classroom is a core objective of our Camps and Tours program.

The camps and tours are “classrooms outside the four walls”. They provide students with active learning through fun and rewarding personal challenges in different and often beautiful settings. The program helps students realise their potential in communication, decision making, problem solving, resilience, team building, working collaboratively and leadership.

House Sporting Carnivals

In Term 1, students are encouraged to participate in the House Swimming and Athletics Carnivals. In addition, throughout the year, students have the opportunity to participate in Interschool Volleyball, Softball, Baseball, Netball, AFL, Soccer, Badminton, Basketball, Hockey, Table Tennis, Tennis and Cricket.

House Performing Arts Festival – Term 1

The House Performing Arts Festival is one of the most exciting events on the school calendar. Within their Houses, students choose a musical to adapt into a thirty-minute performance.

Students can participate in a variety of ways including orchestra, set design, acting, dance, and tech crew.

Parents and friends attend the performance evening and enjoy watching a variety of performances.

The winning House and performance is announced at the conclusion of the night.

All students are welcome to be involved and should contact their House for further information.

Instrumental Music

Instrumental Music is an opt-in component of the Blackburn High School Music Program, with students recruited to learn an instrument at a formal Recruitment Night from beginner levels, or coming to the school

already learning an instrument. Instrumental Music at Blackburn High School provides students with the opportunity to expand their educational horizons and to take part in the rich and vibrant cultural life of the school. Instrumental music education is more than just playing an instrument - it is immersing your child in a culture of successful students and teachers who care about education.

The process of sharing with others is the key to success

in music. Instruments and voices are designed to play together, and it is in ensembles that provide the most powerful and expressive music. All students learning an

instrument at Blackburn High School are valued members of our outstanding ensembles and are expected to attend all rehearsals and activities scheduled for that group.

Blackburn High School has four wind bands, four string orchestras, four big bands, two guitar ensembles, two choirs and a variety of chamber groups.

Instrument Tuition

Blackburn High School offers tuition on the following orchestral Instruments:

Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Saxophone, French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Percussion, Plus Guitar, Voice and Piano (*by audition only*).

Students will have the opportunity to try out a musical instrument as part of our Instrumental Music program, during their allocated Morning Workshop in November.

We look forward to your participation in the Blackburn High School Instrumental Music Program.

Questions about the Music Program, its content, teaching and management, charges, payment options, and administrative arrangements should be directed to:

School Music Administration

E: blackburn.hs@education.vic.gov.au

P: 8808 6464

Student Monitoring and Assessment

Student Monitoring

Mentor Teachers support their students in their learning and review student progress from interim and semester reports.

Celebration of students' success occurs in a variety of ways. This includes performances, acknowledgments, or awards at whole school, house or level assemblies. Throughout the year, students have the opportunity to achieve awards connected to our School Learning Norms or for Academic Achievement. These awards are to acknowledge the hard work our students do and to inspire all students to do their best.

Teachers regularly monitor student growth. If a student is not completing sufficient work or has unsatisfactory results for a major assessment task/s, a Notice of Concern will be sent home. This is to communicate to both parent and student their concern so the issue can be rectified.

Assessment

To support student learning, teachers use a variety of formal and informal student assessment data to identify where students are at with their learning and understanding of concepts and skills. This supports teachers to provide targeted activities for students to take the next steps in learning.

Assessment and Reporting

Blackburn High School follows the Victorian Curriculum Standards guidelines for assessment of students in Years 7–10. Assessment of VCE students follows the guidelines set by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA).

All reports to parents are accessible online via our parent information portal.

Interim reports are prepared at end of Term 1 and Term 3 Year as a guide to how students are working in their classes.

A more comprehensive Semester Report is prepared at the end of Term 2 and the end of Term 4.

Student Progress Conferences (SPC)

As a school, we pride ourselves on developing and maintaining positive relationships with our community to support successful student outcomes.

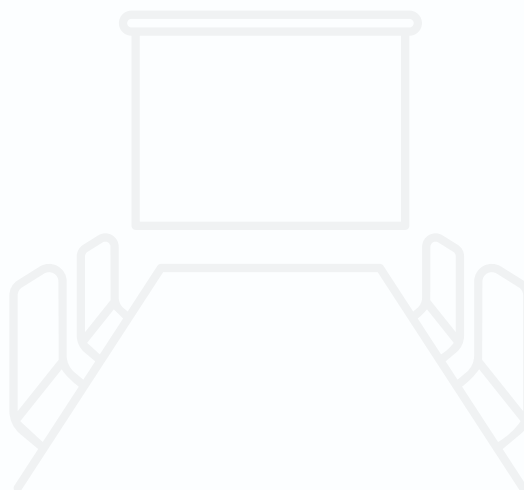
The purpose of the student progress conferences is to get to know you and to inform parents of their child's academic progress. It is an opportunity to engage in a conversation on what the student has done well or not so well and why. Teachers will outline strategies to improve learning.

These conferences are between teachers, parents, and students, focusing on student progress. Interviews are not available for Instrumental Music, Sport, and Mentor Teachers.

Check XUNO newsfeed for specific student progress conference dates and times.

Guidelines for the Conferences.

- It is expected that students will accompany their parents to the conferences.
- Student reports will precede the student's progress conferences.
- After the reports are published, Parents/Guardians can make bookings via our online management system.
- If a student has a request for their conference on their report, we advise you to attend these conferences.
- Maps will be provided to locate teachers.
- There is only time for one conference per student with a teacher. Families will need to see the teacher at the one time.
- Student Progress Conferences (SPC) take place in Term 1 and 3



Year 7 & 8 Handbook

Learning Area Leaders – Student Support

- Humanities - Mr Cincotta (Dunlop) & Mr Alcantara (Dunlop)
- Health and Physical Education - Ms Van Der Westhuizen (Melba) & Mr Nicholson (Dunlop)
- Science - Ms Love (Hollows) & Dr Cutler (Hollows)
- English Mr Moss (Dunlop) & Ms Giangiolio (Melba)
- Mathematics Ms Mowat (Freeman) & Ms Hang (Freeman)
- The Arts Ms Angus (Dunlop) & Ms Roach (Freeman)
- Technology Mr Lam (Hollows)
- Languages Mr Conte (Front Office)
- Music Mr Ziino (Melba) & Ms Gammune and Ms Birze (Melba)

