

Welcome to the Middle
School at Northland
College

Message from the Principal, Mr John Tapene

Welcome to the start of your Secondary Schooling Life. I'm sure you have been looking forward to this day for a long time and I hope that we can help make your dreams about Secondary Schooling come true.

I have three focus areas for all students at Northland College.

1. students achieving to the best of their ability
2. students taking responsibility for their own actions
3. students taking pride in their school

The school rules came about after student consultation in 2006 when the old rules were tossed out and new rules were created. As Year 9 students, it is important that you are aware of where our rules came from. Our rules were written by students for students who want to attend Northland College.

We want every student to make the most of any opportunity that is offered. We want students accessing learning opportunities that will introduce and further develop skills that you will need for your future lives. We want students having a wide range of experiences and enjoying their time at Northland College and taking pride in everything they do. So welcome to Northland College. I look forward to seeing you succeed in everything that you do.

This booklet is about the groups, classes and subjects in the Middle School. If you have any further questions or concerns, please call the Head of Middle School, Kay Banister-Rye or your child's ID teacher.

Northland College students are organized into four House groups for sports and social activities. New students are placed in a house by the House Deans. Students are expected to wear a T shirt in their house colour during House activities and PE.

Students are organised into two major academic groups. The Senior School students are in Year 11 – 13 (which used to be Form 5 – 7). They are all studying for their NCEA (National Certificate of Educational Achievement) Levels 1 - 3.

The Middle School students are in Year 9 or Year 10 (which used to be Form 3 and Form 4). There are five classes at each year level; one is a bi-lingual class. The classes are numbered – Tahi, Rua, Toru, Wha and Rima.

Year 9 classes are at the library end of C block; Year 10 classes are at the Hubb end of C block. There is an Art Room and Lecture Theatre in the block too.

In 2007 we added four computers to the block so we don't always have to take our classes to the computer rooms in B block.

The timetable

For 2008, there will be four periods plus a form-time each day.

08.40	<i>Students are expected to be seated in the Hall</i>
08.45	Karakia & Himene & Daily Notices
09.00	Period 1 (1 hour & 30 minutes)
10.30	Form time with their ID teacher for the Northland College curriculum & School Assembly on Wednesdays
11.00	<i>Interval (25 minutes)</i>
11.25	Period 2 (1 hour)
12.30	Period 3 (1 hour)
01.30	<i>Lunch (45 minutes)</i>
02.15	Period 4 (1 hour)
03.15	End of classes

Breakfast is an important meal for your child as they are in class without a break from quarter to nine until 11 o'clock. A bowl of cereal, noodles or a hot Milo and toast are better for learning than eating nothing.

We are a Health Promoting School which means we do not sell Soft Drinks, Sports Drinks, Lollies, Pies, Fried Food or Cakes in our Canteen.

We ask parents to support their children's learning by not providing these types of food either in their lunches, by delivering this type of food to school or writing a note for your child to go to town to buy food.

The Interdisciplinary Programme Curriculum

Middle School students are assigned to the same teacher who teaches in the same room with the same students on Monday, Tuesday and Friday. We call this our ID (Interdisciplinary) programme

We believe this type of programme will better support our students to achieve in reading, writing and mathematics.

We think having one teacher for three whole days encourages our students come to school and engage in learning every day.

We plan for our students to spend the equivalent of one hour per day learning English, Social Studies & Mathematics.

We focus on Numeracy which is knowing instantly about numbers (times tables, fractions, percentages and decimals).

We focus on Literacy which is knowing strategies to better understand the English language.

We use the Semester Theme and Social Studies Topic to teach the skills of English and Literacy

Middle School students study four topics over two years.

The Themes, Social Studies Topics & English Skills Overview

SEMESTER	THEME	SOCIAL STUDIES TOPIC	ENGLISH SKILLS
1 (odd year)	The Young & The Restless	Migration - Why people move & what is the impact on communities?	Reading & Writing Short Stories (Witi Ihimaera)
2 (odd year)	Conflict & Violence	Treaty of Waitangi How people organize themselves to govern Issues of Social Justice & Breaching Human Rights	Reading & Writing Reports Giving Oral Reports Reading & Writing Plays Speech making (optional)
3 (even year)	Life in the Future	Who are the people who have changed the world with their ideas, things or actions?	Reading Novels Reading & Writing Biographies Viewing & Creating Static Images
4 (even year)	Show me the Money	Economics Scarcity Sustainability Enterprise	Reading & Writing Poetry Cinematography Research Methodology Giving Oral Reports

The Mathematics Overview

TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3	TERM 4
Number processes and strategies	Algebraic thinking	Statistical thinking	Geometry & measurement

The Wednesday / Thursday Learning Area Programmes (LAPs)

All Middle School classes have a different timetable on Wednesdays & Thursdays. The classes remain together and move to a different subject each period. All students are required to take all classes so that they make better informed choices about their senior school courses. We aim for all students to leave the Middle School with a common base knowledge in subject areas.

A typical 2007 Wednesday / Thursday timetable may look like this:

Year 9 TORU

Wednesday

Period 1 SCIENCE

Period 2 HEALTH

Period 3 VISUAL ART

Thursday

Period 1 TECHNOLOGY

Period 2 DANCE

Period 3 PE

In 2008 there will be four periods per day. We are discussing what may be added. There may be a second Science and another PE class.

The Learning Areas have provided a brief outline of their courses.

Science Curriculum Guide for Middle School

This is a highly practical subject emphasising skills associated with scientific enquiry. Topics are developed through a thorough practical course to increase investigative and problem solving skills. This includes planning investigations, making predictions, making and recording observations, measuring, collecting and interpreting data and drawing conclusions. Scientific investigation also involves manipulating equipment and actively engages in higher order thinking processes.

The course aims to help pupils to develop an understanding of natural and physical world; to extend their practical and scientific skills; to become accurate observers. An attitude of informed concern for the natural world is encouraged.

The course is a prerequisite for entrance into Year 11 Science. Those students achieving a good standard in Middle Mathematics will be at an advantage in certain sections of the course. The basic principles and concepts are developed in the Middle Science course and will be advanced in the main areas of Biology, Chemistry and Physics in senior years.

The course also focuses on the development of scientific literacy, the expansion of vocabulary and fosters the development of comprehension of written, oral and visual texts.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ARTS FACULTY

The skills you learn in the Arts will help you to express yourselves, your ideas and feelings. In the middle school Arts you will have the opportunity to experience Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Art. Year Nine will introduce you to skills and knowledge, and Year Ten will give you the foundation you will need for NCEA Level 1.

Summary of course content:

DANCE

- Acquire a vocabulary of movement skills
- Learn basic technique
- Personal fitness and health
- Observe and experience popular dance styles to initiate choreographic ideas
- Develop creativity and imagination
- Practice, rehearse, video and critique dance preparation and performance
- Enhance confidence and self-esteem
- Improve communication skills
- Co-operative group work

MUSIC

- Acquire knowledge of musical elements
- Learn music notation and composing a melody line.
- Develop basic practical and performance skills on the keyboard and guitar
- Participate in Itinerant lessons

DRAMA

- Acquire a vocabulary of drama skills
- Learn basic technique
- Script-writing and story board
- Develop creativity and imagination
- Practice, rehearse, video and critique drama preparation and performance
- Enhance confidence and self-esteem
- Improve communication skills
- Co-operative group work

VISUAL ART

- Understand how artists create their art work
- Apply this knowledge to create your own exciting art
- Build drawing skills in a variety of wet and dry media, including pencil, charcoal, chalk, crayon, ink, and paint
- Develop creativity and imagination
- Use construction methods in fabric, papier mache, weaving, and clay.

At this stage you will only be able to continue with Visual Art and Music.
(See below)

Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
Dance	Dance			
Drama	Drama			
Music	Music	Music	Music	Music
Visual Art	Visual Art	Visual Art	Painting	Painting
			Printmaking	Printmaking
			Photography	Photography

Health

Year 9 students have one Health class per week. Northland College's Health curriculum is created after community consultation that occurs every two years.

The underlying concept for this subject is Hauora. This is taught from a holistic approach. Each topic is looked at in relation to how they affect a person's hauora.

A letter outlining the legal requirements of a school when teaching Sexuality education is included in the enrolment pack. Please read it. Feel free to phone the HOD Health, Miss Alison Dingle at school if you have any questions.

DRUG Education	Cannabis, Tobacco, Alcohol Effects on people and society Strategies for making health enhancing decisions
NUTRITION	Teenage nutrition requirements Planning and Budgeting to eat Healthy Food Influences in what we eat
SEXUALITY Education	Puberty & Human reproduction Contraception & Sexually Transmitted Diseases Strategies for making health enhancing decisions
MENTAL Health	Rights & Responsibilities Friendships Building Resilience Change /Loss/Grief

Health Pathways

Middle School -> NCEA Health Levels 1- 3 -> Careers involving people!

Physical Education

Middle School students have one PE class per week. Students are expected to bring a change of clothes – a T-shirt in their house colour and a pair of shorts (or trackpants in winter). The PE programme is seasonal. It is based on building specific skills and game strategies.

If an extra PE period is timetabled in 2008 there will be a PE theory classes.

	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3	TERM 4
Practical	Swimming Athletics Cross Country	Basketball Hockey	Badminton Soccer	Swimming
Theory				

PE pathways

Middle School -> NCEA PE Levels 1 – 3 ->

University

Polytechnic

Technology

Middle School students have one Technology class per week. It is based on building specific skills and thinking processes that are a part of the draft curriculum. There is more written work than practical.

	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3	TERM 4
Year 9	ICT – PowerPoint	Paper Making	ICT – Graphics	Paper Structures
Year 10	Burger Competition	ICT – Excel	Graphics	Photo Frames

Technology pathways

Middle School ->

Pre Carpentry ->
Hospitality ->
Business Studies
Graphics

Carpentry Trades School
Gateway / Tertiary
University
Tertiary / Employment

Special features of the Middle School

Middle School Teachers ...

Are employed because they have specialist teaching skills

Can plan programmes from level 1 to level 5 of the curriculum.

Can identify & teach to specific group & individual need.

Understand the importance of establishing quality relationships with students and their whanau

Are committed to using asTTle data to raise student achievement

Are committed to students using their asTTle 'console' to identify what they need to achieve next.

Year 9 STARs programme

Year 10 E4E programme