Junior Secondary Philosophy

Our philosophy is based around the provision of a seamless curriculum supported by strong, positive relationships with increased opportunities and learning outcomes for students. Our aim is to maintain student enthusiasm for learning and build self-esteem so that school and learning is a positive and meaningful experience for all.

Distinct identity

Ferny Grove State High School students are supported to develop their own group identity within the broader school community, and have a strong sense of belonging through ownership of their school and their learning. Students achieve their individual potential, incorporating the school values of Learning, Respect, Community and Creativity.

- Refurbished classrooms and flexible learning area
- Form Group rooms within the Year 7 precinct
- Designated undercover and eating areas exclusively for Year 7s
- Orientation Week at the start of 2015 to provide opportunities to settle in and develop relationships with peers, staff and Year 11 representatives
- Core teacher for Form Group and Pastoral Care who will remain with the student from Years 7-12
- Year 7 camp initiating the school’s leadership development and wellbeing program
- A strong focus on the development of group identity whilst fostering a sense of belonging and connectedness to the whole school (e.g. generating House spirit through team-building activities)

Quality teaching

The learning and achievement of Junior Secondary students is supported by highly skilled teachers with pedagogical knowledge, practice and breadth of curriculum experiences appropriate for this age group.

- Teachers use the Dimensions of Learning as a teaching and learning framework utilising a common language and consistent quality practices.
- Continued rollout of 1:1 student devices to promote digital learning
- Core teacher for Form Group and Pastoral Care
- Full complement of Secondary Curriculum subjects
- Specialist teachers for LOTE, Arts, Health & Physical Education, Technology and Instrumental Music
- Special Education Program
- Support Teacher - Literacy and Numeracy
- Opportunities for in-depth study and extension in languages (German Immersion), Science/Agriculture, Creative Arts and Sport Excellence programs
- Each classroom will have state-of-the-art technology supporting student engagement in the teaching and learning process
- Opportunities for the development of cross-curricular integrated projects in flexible learning spaces
- Access to specialist laboratories, workshops, kitchens and creative arts spaces
- We are working closely with primary schools to ensure curriculum continuity for students

Leadership

Leadership opportunities for staff and students are delivered through strong school leadership and a focus on support for Junior Secondary students.

- Year 7 leadership opportunities:
  - Junior Student Representative Council
  - Junior Secondary Leaders
  - Sports house leaders
  - Music leaders
  - Faculty Ambassadors

- Teacher leadership is also being fostered through collaboration by teachers in the development of the best approaches to teaching and learning in Junior Secondary
Student Wellbeing

Student wellbeing builds a foundation of success by embedding social and personal competencies across all facets of school life; incorporating a healthy lifestyle of good nutrition and exercise.

- A smooth transition from primary school and to promote student wellbeing will:
  - improve academic performance;
  - increase student participation in school activities;
  - enable students to experience success; and
  - foster enjoyment at high school.

- This will be achieved by:
  - shared curriculum opportunities, e.g. Science
  - community information events;
  - visits to Year 6 classrooms;
  - Orientation Days before entering high school
  - Orientation Week activities at the beginning of the year.

- Student support includes:
  - Daily contact with a Form Group teacher and core teachers who will monitor student progress and wellbeing;
  - Year 11 Representatives to mentor students and be a point of contact;
  - Senior staff support, e.g. Year 7 Deputy Principal, Guidance Officers, Head of Junior Secondary & Year Level Coordinator;
  - Student Support Services, e.g. Chaplain, Nurse, Youth Support Worker

- Student Wellbeing (pastoral care) program promoting and supporting:
  - social and emotional skills
  - resilience
  - learning capacity
  - core school values - Learning, Respect, Community, Creativity

Connecting our Community

A strong reciprocal partnership is built upon our core school values. There is a range of opportunities for parents and community to shape the Junior Secondary model.

- Parents and Citizens’ Association
- School Council
- Parent Support Groups - Instrumental Music, Languages
- Year 7 2015 Parent Reference Group

- Regular cluster meetings with the primary principals will ensure that the curriculum structure is developed in consultation with the feeder primary schools and in response to feedback from local communities.

- Build on existing primary-secondary experiences through the delivery of LOTE, Instrumental Music, Science, Maths and Sport Development programs

- Parent consultation:
  - forums in primary schools
  - parent reference group
  - email and website updates, Facebook

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