

Year 8 (Stage 4) elective handbook



2025

Developing safe, responsible and respectful learners in a stimulating and inclusive environment

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Junior Curriculum

General information

The Mudgee High School community is proud of its school and the achievements of its students. The staff at Mudgee High strive to provide high quality education in a safe, respectful and responsible environment.

Mudgee High School is committed to providing the best possible opportunities for all students. To ensure this happens, many hours of research, discussion and consultation have gone into developing curriculum structures for junior students. These structures are continually monitored and, where appropriate, modified.

If students satisfactorily complete their studies in the junior school and meet the requirements of the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) and the Department of Education (DoE), they will be issued with a Record of School Achievement (RoSA) at the end of Year 10.

This booklet provides information about the Year 8 elective structure. This includes specific elective module details.

Curriculum structure

Over the course of Years 7 to 10, there are mandatory courses to be completed.

In addition to the mandatory courses, the curriculum structure in Year 8 is designed to allow students to experience a wide range of elective subjects. In Year 8, there is a semester system. This means that all elective courses are made up of modules which last for one semester (50 hours). Students have the opportunity to study two elective modules per semester. Students cannot study the same elective twice. This structure provides students the opportunity to study four different modules over the course of the year.

Elective structure

The elective structure is an approach to curriculum organisation that allows students maximum flexibility and choice. This means that the timetable is arranged in such a way as to allow students in Year 8 access to a variety of elective courses in addition to their Key Learning Areas: English, Mathematics, Science, HSIE and PDHPE.

This system provides several advantages to our students:

- Students must be more involved in the planning and selection of their courses. This encourages personal responsibility; students are compelled to take charge of elements of their education and as a result, potentially better engage with their learning.
- A semester system allows students to experience a reasonably broad variety of courses, enabling them to make more informed decisions for their Stage 5 (Years 9 and 10) study pathways.
- A semester system actively involves students and parents in the selection process.

Choosing course patterns

- Year 8 students will study two subjects from two elective lines per semester.
- During Term 4, Year 7 students will nominate their top 8 preferences for elective study in Year 8. They will be allocated to their subject lines for each semester using a best-fit timetabling process.
- Timetable and other organisational considerations may influence module allocation.

This booklet gives a list of proposed elective modules together with a brief description of each module.

Year 7 students will be asked to make selections based on this information during Term 4.

Students will be given guidance within classes about their choice of modules. They will then have the opportunity to discuss their selections with parents.

Some modules may not be offered if there are insufficient students who wish to undertake them. In those instances, students will be allocated a place in an alternative module by considering their other preferences.

Module Codes

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Aboriginal Studies | 08ABST |
| Agricultural Technology | 08AGRI |
| Commerce | 08COMM |
| Child Studies | 08CHLD |
| Coding & Robotics | 08IST |
| Drama | 08DRAM |
| Food Technology | 08FOOD |
| Japanese | 08JAPN |
| Music | 08MUSC |
| Graphics Technology | 08GRPH |
| Industrial Technology (wood) | 08TIMB |
| Industrial Technology (metal) | 08METL |
| Visual Arts | 08VART |

Creative and Performing Arts

Drama – Music – Visual Arts

Drama

08DRAM Drama (50 hours)

Course description

Try something New! Immerse yourself in drama, an art form that surrounds us every day. It is a vital aspect of our society and helps us understand ourselves and others. Students learn about the exciting world of theatre, acting and imaginative performances. Students learn the skills of characterisation, improvisation and performance through games and role play. Students will explore different drama elements and techniques that build the foundation of Drama. It encourages a cooperative approach to exploring the world through enactment while exploring the ways people react and respond to different situations, issues and ideas.

Students learn about

- Elements of drama: role, character, focus, tension, time, place, situation, space, structure, language, sound, movement, rhythm, atmosphere and symbolism.
- Dramatic forms: playbuilding, commedia dell'arte, political/protest theatre, Ancient Greek theatre, masks, melodrama and Shakespeare.
- Performance styles.
- Dramatic techniques and theatrical conventions: characterisation.

Students learn to

- Use elements and styles of theatre in performances.
- Playbuild.
- Work collectively to playbuild a piece of theatre.
- Reflect on the building process of performances.
- Incorporate contemporary themes.
- Explore different drama elements and techniques.
- Build the foundation of drama.

Specific course requirements

A4 art book, spiral bound.

Course costs

Nil

Career relevance / Pathways / Transferable skills

Transferrable skills include analytical skills, interpersonal skills, writing skills, empathy, higher order thinking, investing skills and research skills. Career pathways may include script writer, director, actor, lawyer, drama teacher, stage manager, theatrical costume and design marker, publicity agent, artist, counsellor, and film and TV editor or producer.

Music

08MUSC Music (50 hours)

Course description

Students will continue to develop their skills in performing, listening and composing. There will be opportunities to develop solo skills and to work in various groups (whole class, small ensembles).

For students who enjoyed Music in Year 7, this course provides the opportunity to further their skills and practise them with like-minded students. It also provides an opportunity to have fun!

Students learn about

- How to practise effectively to develop a musical performance.
- How to use musical skills to perform in style.
- How to use the performances of others to improve personal performance.
- The concepts of music and how they are manipulated to create musical works.

Students learn to

- Perform solo as well as perform group works with increasing confidence.
- Listen with increasing understanding and skill.
- Develop musical ideas into compositions.

Specific course requirements

- book (120 pages)

Course costs

Nil

Career relevance / Pathways / Transferable skills

Transferable skills include group work and collaboration, skilful listening, life-long musical appreciation and higher-order thinking. Career pathways may include artist and repertoire representative, music therapist, music composer, instrumentalist, high school music teacher, music journalist, record producer, music librarian, musician, conductor, sound engineer, video and sound engineer, disc jockey, music agent, tour manager and musical theatre.

Visual Arts

08VART Visual Art (50 hours)

Course description

For students who enjoyed Year 7 Art, this is another chance to taste the pure enjoyment of creating. Students extend their skills and ideas for artmaking. Sculpture, clay making, printmaking, drawing and painting are all options in this module. Creativity is the key and learning to express individual ideas will be beneficial to future studies.

Students learn about

- Techniques that are specific to particular mediums.
- How good design can affect the outcome of a task.
- How art practitioners create art to reflect their world.
- How to use their Visual Art Diary as a site for recording information in a logical and creative way.

Students learn to

- Develop skills in a variety of materials.
- Follow ideas through to a completed object.
- Use the work of professional artists to extend their understanding of art practice.
- Use their Visual Art Diary to document their work.

Specific course requirements

- A4 art book (spiral-bound).
- 2B pencil.
- eraser.
- 30cm rule.

Course costs

\$25 to cover materials consumed.

Career relevance / Pathways / Transferable skills

Transferable skills include creative thinking, problem solving, innovation, critical thinking, analytical skills and communication skills. Career pathways include, but are not limited to, animator, art director, art teacher, artist, architect, cartoonist, designer, graphic designer, illustrator, industrial designer, interior designer, landscape architect, lighting designer, photographer, sign writer, and stylist.

Human Society and its Environment (HSIE)

Aboriginal Studies

08ABST Aboriginal Media and Expression (50 hours)

Course description

Aboriginal Peoples and the Media

The focus of this option is the key role that the media plays in today's society. In particular, its impact on a range of non-Aboriginal peoples' perceptions of Aboriginal Peoples, cultures and contemporary issues. The presentation of Aboriginal Peoples and cultural images from pre-invasion to today are investigated and compared. Students also explore the role Aboriginal communities and individuals play in the media as advocates for themselves and the community, and the importance of Aboriginal-controlled media outlets as vehicles for self-determination.

Aboriginal oral and written expression

The focus of this option is the exploration of oral and written forms of communication used by Aboriginal Peoples before and after invasion. Students focus on different forms of oral and written expression to develop an understanding of the diversity of styles and viewpoints. A key element of this option is the important contribution of these works to Aboriginal and other cultures, histories and identities.

Specific course requirements

There are no prerequisites for this module.

Course costs

Nil

Career relevance / Pathways / Transferable skills

This module will provide an introductory foundation for future studies in Aboriginal Studies, Society and Culture, Ancient History, Modern History and Legal Studies.

The topics in this module will potentially prepare students for careers in anthropology, archaeology, museum curatorial work, journalism and documentary making, archivists and a wide range of other related industries. Aboriginal Studies begins the journey to becoming a historically literate and globalised citizen.

Commerce

08COMM Global Marketing (50 hours)

Course description

This module covers Option 3 (Promoting and Selling) plus Option 2 (Investing) plus Option 6 (Travel).

The main aim of a business is to make a profit by selling goods and services. To achieve this, businesses use a wide range of promotional methods to catch the attention of customers and hopefully make a sale. Globalisation is not a new process. Trade, exploration and the movement of people and ideas around the world have been occurring for centuries. This module is an introduction to a range of concepts in commerce.

Students learn about

- the selling process
- targeting consumers
- selling techniques
- reasons for investing
- investment options
- investment planning
- the financial services industry
- the nature of tourism
- planning a trip
- developing an itinerary
- solving problems related to travel
- current issues for all topics studied.

Students learn to

This module will provide students with an introductory foundation for future studies in Commerce, Business Studies, Legal Studies, Economics, and Society and Culture.

Specific course requirements

There are no prerequisites for this module.

Course costs

Nil

Career relevance / Pathways / Transferable skills

This module provides students with an introductory foundation for future studies in Commerce, Business Studies, Legal Studies, Economics, and Society and Culture.

These topics will prepare students for a career in business and industry, including owning/running a business, and working in all ranges of businesses from small enterprises right through to multi-national companies. Commerce begins the journey to becoming a globalised consumer who is economically and financially literate.

Languages

Japanese

08JAPN A Trip to Japan (50 hours)

Course description

Are you interested in travelling to Japan? A country of beauty combining ancient and modern culture to create a must-see destination.

This course teaches you what you need to know if you were going to holiday in Japan. Discovering the best places to visit, such as Mt Fuji, the temples of Kyoto, hot springs, Disneyland and Studio Ghibli. Learning which foods to try and how to ask for directions.

The course allows students to build on the listening, speaking, reading and writing skills learnt in Year 7, as they develop a holiday plan.

Students learn about

- travel tips
- cultural cues
- features of Japan.

Students learn to

- Use Japanese language to respond to everyday situations.
- Develop a foundation of grammar and vocabulary.
- Use language to understand and respond to spoken and written texts.
- Read and write the phonetic syllabary (Hiragana and Kanji).

Specific course requirements

None

Course costs

Nil

Career relevance / Pathways / Transferable skills

The study of Japanese contributes to the overall education of students, particularly in the areas of communication, cross-cultural understanding, literacy, general knowledge and the development of cognitive abilities. This course will provide students with an introductory foundation for future studies in Japanese.

Learning a second language helps students develop skills that will be invaluable as they progress through school and later as they join the workforce. Skills developed include:

- higher order thinking, learning and social skills
- literacy skills
- flexible thinking skills
- greater empathy and acceptance of others
- analytical and problem-solving skills.

Technological and Applied Studies (TAS)

Agricultural Technology

08AGRI Agriculture (50 hours)

Course description

This module is an introduction to agricultural enterprises. Students explore a variety of traditional and alternative plant and animal enterprises. They develop an understanding of the production of plants and animals for agricultural purposes. Animal husbandry and farm safety are compulsory components of this course.

Practical activities provide opportunities for students to develop specific knowledge, understanding and introductory skills related to both plant and animal enterprises.

Students learn about

- the importance of agriculture
- animal husbandry
- animal production
- plant production
- Work health and Safety (WHS) in farm situations.

Students learn to

- Describe a range of plant species and animal breeds used in agricultural enterprises.
- Implement responsible production of plant and animal products.
- Perform plant and/or animal management practices safely and in cooperation with others.
- Follow safety and hygiene instructions when using chemicals, tools and agricultural machinery in accordance with Work health and Safety requirements.

Specific course requirements

There are no prerequisites for this module.

Course costs

Nil

Career relevance / Pathways / Transferable skills

The course better enables students to determine whether they wish to pursue the 100 hour course in Agriculture in Years 9 and 10, and a future in an agricultural career path.

Child Studies

08CHLD Child Studies (50 hours)

Course description

Child Studies assists students to understand the significant impact of the child's environment and the role that the child and others can take in the active construction of this environment. They will have the opportunity to reflect on and think critically about the value of the cultural context and influence of ancestral and traditional practices. They will learn to identify, create and evaluate solutions to enhance child wellbeing. They will become better aware of and learn to access a range of relevant community resources and services.

Students learn about

The syllabus modules are:

- Preparing for parenthood
- Conception to birth
- Family interactions
- New-born care
- Growth and development
- Play and the developing child
- Health and safety in childhood
- Food and nutrition in childhood
- Children and culture
- Media and technology in childhood
- Aboriginal cultures and childhood
- The diverse needs of children.

Students learn to

Throughout the course, students develop skills that enhance their ability to:

- Support a child's development from pre-conception through to and including the early years.
- Positively influence the growth, development and wellbeing of children.
- Consider the external factors that support the growth, development and wellbeing of children.
- Research, communicate and evaluate issues related to child development.

Specific course requirements

There are no prerequisites for this module.

Course costs

\$15

Career relevance / Pathways / Transferable skills

Child Studies promotes in students a sense of empathy for children, their parents, caregivers and those who have the potential to influence the learning environment. It contributes to the development in young people of an understanding and appreciation of the range of ways they can positively impact on the wellbeing of children through roles in both paid and unpaid contexts.

Coding & Robotics

08IST Coding & Robotics (50 hours)

Course description

Year 8 Coding & Robotics is a practical-based course in which students are provided the opportunity to develop computational, problem solving and basic computer skills. Students will learn basic programming and design skills by completing a series of design projects using the robotic EV3 Lego kits. Students will also use presentation and word processing software to record and present their progress and solutions.

Students learn about

- robotics
- basic programming concepts
- past, emerging and new technologies.

Students learn to

- Use a range of computer software and hardware.
- Identify and use problem-solving processes when forming solutions.
- Design, produce and evaluate appropriate solutions to a range of problems.
- Justify decisions made when creating information and software technology solutions.
- Document ideas and solutions for targeted audiences.

Specific course requirements

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Course costs

Nil

Career relevance / Pathways / Transferable skills

In all aspects of the course, students study appropriate industry standards and work practices. Students gain an understanding of specific career opportunities related to information and software technology. Technical literacy is integral to the study of the course, preparing students with an understanding of and skills in the use of software and hardware devices. Problem-solving, workplace communication, collaborative work practices, and work, health and safety issues are embedded throughout the course. Coding & Robotics is a very good foundation for the Stage 5 course, Information and Software Technology.

Food Technology

08FOOD Food Technology (50 hours)

Course description

Students will learn to recognise the importance of hygienic handling of food when producing safe and appealing products. They will list the basic components of a variety of foods and describe changes which occur during processing, preparation and storage of foods. Students will relate the nutritional value of foods to health and identify the factors that influence food habits.

This is an introductory unit that allows students to grasp the basics of cooking. The foundational skills developed here will be built upon in subsequent courses in Food Technology.

Students learn about

- Preparing food safely and hygienically.
- Using a variety of cooking methods and techniques.
- Cooking with a wide range of ingredients.
- Basic nutrition.

Students learn to

Students will learn to cook a variety of different dishes and utilise a range of ingredients and cooking methods to produce healthy food products. These skills will enable students to develop the ability and confidence to design, produce and evaluate solutions to situations involving food.

Specific course requirements

Personal Protective Equipment. This includes:

- fully enclosed leather, vinyl or suede shoes
- 2 tea towels
- an apron
- oven mitts
- container for food products made in practical lessons

- a workbook and normal, expected writing equipment for theory lessons.

Course costs

\$50 to cover the cost of edible products made to take home or eat on site.

Career relevance / Pathways / Transferable skills

A great introduction into the world of culinary art, and a great grounding for future studies in food technology and hospitality.

Graphics Technology

08GRPH Graphics Technology 1 (50 hours)

Course description

Students are introduced to standard drawing practice and skills. Students complete a series of practical exercises supported by drawing theory on the materials and equipment used in class. These principles and techniques will be applied to the development of mechanical, engineering, architectural and product drawings. The program also introduces students to the concept of Computer Aided Drawing (CAD).

Students learn about

- graphics principles and techniques
- work practices
- equipment type, care and use
- clean and ordered work practices
- how to apply planned and ordered approaches to producing drawings
- Australian and international drafting standards.

Students learn to

- Apply drafting conventions to create standard page layouts (e.g., paper size, borders, title blocks, projection symbols).
- Use computing principles for CAD application.
- Work within the CAD environment.

Specific course requirements

Students wishing to follow Technology Graphics electives in Stage 5 are advised to complete this module as an introduction to Graphics.

Course costs

Nil.

Career relevance / Pathways / Transferable skills

Graphics is a key communication skill in technology throughout the world and is used in many areas of employment. The practical skills gained from this course may be of benefit in many other subjects, as well as having vocational applications.

Industrial Technology – Metal

08METL Metal Workshop Skills (50 hours)

Course description

Students are introduced to workshop practices, hand tool skills and elementary machine operations. The course provides an introduction to metal machining and fabrication methods, as well as the use of essential power tools. Students complete a series of practical exercises and theory on the materials and equipment used in class.

Students learn about

- Work health and Safety and risk management
- materials and components
- equipment
- tools and machines
- techniques
- metal-related industries.

Students learn to

- Safely use tools, materials and equipment.
- Adjust and use hand tools in the production of practical projects.
- Use machines and portable power tools in the production of practical projects.
- Apply correct measuring standards and methods.
- Measure and mark out metal projects from a workshop drawing.
- Accurately cut and prepare materials to size use a variety of joining methods.

Specific course requirements

Personal Protective Equipment. This includes fully enclosed leather, vinyl or suede shoes.

Course costs

\$40 to cover the cost of consumables used to take home creations.

Career relevance / Pathways / Transferable skills

This course enables students to ascertain if they wish to pursue the 100 hour courses in Industrial Technology Metal in Years 9 and 10.

Industrial Technology – Timber

08TIMB Timber Workshop Skills (50 hours)

Course description

The wood skills component involves workshop practices and hand tool skills. Students complete a series of practical exercises supported by theory on the materials and equipment used in class.

The toy-making component is designed to develop skills and technical knowledge related to design and construction. This component involves safety instruction in the use of hand tools and power tools. The module also provides students with the opportunity to develop wooden toys that use simple engineering principles for operation.

Students wishing to select wood working modules are advised to complete this module as early as possible.

Students learn about

- Work health and Safety and risk management
- materials and components
- equipment
- tools and machines
- techniques
- timber related industries.

Students learn to

- Safely use tools, materials and equipment.
- Consider basic timber working characteristics and use solid timbers in the production of practical projects.
- Adjust and use hand tools in the production of practical projects.
- Use machines and portable power tools in the production of practical projects.
- Apply correct measuring standards and methods.
- Measure and mark out timber projects from a workshop drawing.
- Accurately cut and prepare materials to size.
- Use a variety of joining methods including simple joints, screwing, nailing and gluing.
- Describe reasons for timber finishing.

- Prepare surfaces and apply clear finishes to timber.

Specific course requirements

Personal Protective Equipment. This includes fully enclosed leather, vinyl or suede shoes.

Course costs

\$40 to cover the cost of consumables used to take home creations.

Career relevance / Pathways / Transferable skills

These courses will enable students to ascertain if they wish to pursue the 100 hour courses in Industrial Technology Timber in Years 9 and 10.