Middle Phase
Year 4 - Year 6
Curriculum Handbook
2016

Accredited International Student Program
CRICOS Provider Number: 00608A
Learn, Lead, Succeed
Welcome
Welcome to the North Lakes State College Middle Phase of Learning.

We wish you well on your learning journey with us, as you travel from Year 4 - Year 9.

During the Middle Phase of Learning, students begin to investigate the larger world beyond home and school and need to develop as autonomous learners. Students in the Middle Phase of Learning have distinctive and diverse needs which stem from the very significant developmental changes in this period, as well as from a broad range of individual students’ life circumstances, interests, skills and talents.

The Middle Phase of Learning falls into two distinct stages and this is reflected at North Lakes State College in our two Middle Phase Sub Schools, Year 4 - Year 6 and Year 7 - Year 9.

The first stage involves the transition from the early foundational years. Students need to consolidate the foundations of literacy and numeracy that they gained in the early phase of learning and develop more sophisticated skills to enable further learning in each subject area. This is a time of expanding curiosity and eager exploration of a broader and deeper range of learning experiences. In our Year 4-Year 6 Sub School Inquiry Based Learning is used to maximise deeper understandings in a range of curriculum areas.

The second stage is characterised by the demands of the intense physical, social, emotional and intellectual development of early adolescence. There is considerable diversity in how and when students move through this stage and in the impact on their attitude to and success in learning. Increasing literacy and numeracy skills and knowledge are the essential ingredients for learning in every subject and for effective communication and participation in adult life. It is essential to maintain students’ interest and motivation and provide opportunities for them to continue to engage to fully prepare them for the senior phase of learning.

Middle Phase Year 4 - Year 6 Curriculum
As a Prep - Year 12 College, with well-established tertiary pathways, North Lakes State College embodies the philosophy of life-long learning. This learning journey is reflected in our curriculum, pedagogy and assessment practices to provide students with the skills to achieve their individual success.

Teachers plan purposefully, reflecting on student work, class, year level and systemic data to tailor learning activities based on the individual needs of the student. A key component of our academic success lies in the differentiation of our programs and the wide range of subjects available to students. Students in Year 4, Year 5, and Year 6 have the opportunity to study Music, Visual Art, Dance and Drama over a two year period. The inclusion of these subjects, allows our students to move seamlessly into the traditional ‘high school’ years of Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 and beyond into the Senior Phase of Learning.

Queensland to Australian Curriculum
In 2011 North Lakes State College commenced a phased transition to the new Australian Curriculum.

Currently in Year 4 - Year 9 at North Lakes State College the curriculum delivered in English, Maths, Science, History and Geography is based on the Australian Curriculum. Other subjects are based on the Queensland Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Framework (QCARF) Essential Learnings. Students in Year 6, Year 7, and Year 8 also participate in Education Queensland’s Mandatory Languages program. The curriculum for students in our Advancement program is consistent with Education Queensland’s policy statement: Curriculum for Students with Disabilities.

At North Lakes State College, all curriculum areas are delivered through a consistent pedagogical approach articulated in our NLSC Pedagogical Framework. This framework is designed to maximised student engagement in the curriculum.

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<th>NLSC PEDAGOGICAL FRAMEWORK KEY ELEMENTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Intellectual Rigour</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Understanding the Learner</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Real World Context</td>
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<td>• Quality Relationships</td>
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<td>• Explicit Instruction and Guidance</td>
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Support Programs
Students experiencing Learning Difficulties are supported through programs designed by our Support Teachers, Literacy and Numeracy. Levels of support are provided commensurate with the degree of difficulty being experienced. Strategies may include differentiation of tasks or assessment by the classroom teacher through to intensive individual or small group intervention provided by a Support Teacher.

Highly Able and Gifted students are supported in the classroom through a differentiated curriculum and may access enrichment programs - Reach in Year 4 - Year 7 and Honours in Year 8 and Year 9.
**Learning Celebrations**

Twice a year you will be invited to attend our Learning Celebrations in Year 4 - Year 6. These provide:

- The students with a meaningful purpose and authentic audiences
- Accountability and promotion of the school's curriculum

Learning Celebrations from Year 4 - Year 6 are held to showcase student work each semester. These family oriented activities provide parents with the opportunity to view student work and meet informally with the teacher. Learning Celebrations often allow for students to perform for parents, aspects of their learning from throughout the semester.

**School Wide Positive Behaviour**

At North Lakes State College we are committed to, and strive to display our three core values of:

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<th>Choice</th>
<th>Courage</th>
<th>Respect</th>
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**Student Reports**

North Lakes State College provides reporting to ensure meaningful communication about student achievement occurs in a variety of modes, to a range of stakeholders. Reporting includes a teacher’s professional judgement on an individual student’s demonstration of the intended outcome.

Each year, parents are provided with opportunities to meet the child’s teacher for two focused parent-teacher interviews. Parents are always welcome to contact their student’s teacher to make an appointment to discuss student achievement and welfare throughout the year.

Each semester, a formal Report Card is issued to provide students and families with a summative review of their achievements. Progressive assessment is undertaken by all middle school students throughout the year. Assessment is used at North Lakes State College to provide information for further learning. Where appropriate, results are shared with parents immediately, if there is concern around student achievement.

Individual Educational and Support Program reports are written for students with specialised programs. These reports are sent home each semester to report on student progress against each of their identified goals.

Reporting provides parents with opportunities to meaningfully participate in discussions about their student’s ongoing achievement.