



## WELCOME

Welcome to Middle School for 2021!

We are looking forward to sharing a positive and exciting year with your Middle school child. We hope that this information helps to give a clear understanding of our daily and weekly routines, as well as a reminder about broader, school-wide expectations.

Please feel free to contact us if there is something that you are not sure of. You can contact us via Sentral Parent Portal, or by leaving a message with the office.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Sentral** – it is important that all parents are familiar with using Sentral. Keep your login details handy. Sentral is used for most communication between school and home, and it is also how you access your child's assessment information.

**Absences & Late Arrivals** – all absences must be explained. The preferred method is through Sentral Parent Portal. You can also email your child's classroom teacher, or send a written note. Students who arrive after 9:00am must sign in at the office and receive a late pass. Students who are leaving early must be signed out by a parent/guardian and receive an Early Leave pass.

**School Lunches** – students should bring a clearly named drink bottle filled with water only. Students are encouraged to drink regularly throughout the day. To assist with concentration and general wellbeing, students are invited to bring munch 'n' crunch – a small fruit or vegetable snack – usually eaten around 10am and designed to keep them going until recess. For ideas about healthy lunchbox choices you can visit <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/lunch-box-tips>

**Student Diaries** – home reading should be recorded in student diaries and signed off by a parent each night. Please support your child to bring their diary to school daily.

## CAMP

Middle School Camp is booked at Camp Gundiwindi in Silvan from Wednesday 17th March - Friday 19th March. A note regarding payment has been sent home, and details are on Sentral. Medical forms and a packing list will be sent home soon!

# HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD AT HOME

**Reading** – should be practised on a daily basis both at school and at home. At this level, emphasis is placed on comprehension skills, especially ‘reading between the lines’. Encourage reading at a time that works for your family. Include some ‘reading aloud’ time in weekly home reading. Support your child to find reading material that is interesting to them by visiting your local library and swapping books with friends. Try to include a mix of books and online reading.

**Writing** – is a process of thinking/planning, drafting and then revising in order to make the intended meaning clear. When looking at your child’s writing, focus on the message or story of the writing, rather than marking out all of the spelling errors. Everyone takes many years to learn how to spell, so don’t think that you must correct everything your child writes. Often 4-5 corrections is as many as a student can absorb. Do provide help when your child asks how to spell a word by encouraging them to listen for the sounds in the word.

**Mathematics** – the most used mathematical skills that all adults use in their daily life and mental maths skills. You can help your child by practising number facts (addition, subtraction and times tables). Involve your child in real life calculations by adding up bills, counting change, dividing groups into portions, telling the time, measuring & cooking). Take a moment to note all of the times Maths is used in our everyday lives. Students can also practise maths skills at home using Essential Assessment – My Numeracy. Student logins will be glued into their diaries.

**Technology** – as responsible and ethical ‘digital citizens’ it is important that students have a high awareness of the need for privacy online and behave in a responsible way when participating in online activities. Families can support their child to develop these skills by helping them manage the amount of time they spend online, and closely supervising their online interactions. The office of the e-safety commissioner has some helpful advice for parents and kids about how to stay safe online.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>

We look forward to a rewarding and enjoyable year in Middle for 2021.

Thanks

Fiona Meilak & Emma Williams

Classroom Teachers, Middle School