



2026 PROSPECTUS

Our Values

Learning

Independence

Safety

Respect

Responsibility

Our Vision

Jackson School is a collaborative learning community for all. We aim to develop independence through safety, respect and responsibility.

We aspire to offer authentic, quality educational experiences that develop futures, create opportunities and inspire potential; enabling our students to be valued and contributing members of the wider community.

We share and celebrate our successes and achievements.

Welcome to our Community

Anthony Jackson | Principal

Jackson School is a child safe community. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which our school is situated, the Wurundjeri (Woi Wurrung) peoples of the Kulin Nation, and pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging. Wominjeka!



On behalf of us all at Jackson School, welcome to our community!

Jackson School provides a balanced curriculum with a strong focus on Literacy and Numeracy that is differentiated to meet the individual needs of all students. We are proud to offer a rich and authentic curriculum offering all Victorian Curriculum learning areas. All students have access to an iPad or Tablet Laptop to support and enhance them in their learning to help prepare them for our ever changing world. As Jackson Learners, our students develop learner characteristics focused around our five school values and eight employability skills. Our school is organised in three learning communities: Junior School (Prep-Year 4), Middle School (Years 5-8) and Senior School (Years 9-12).

Every student at Jackson School is offered the opportunity to learn in small class settings with 12 or less students. A qualified teacher and at least one education support staff member in each class continually monitor the academic, social, emotional and physical development of each student. Our classroom staff are supported by a large Allied Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing Team of professionals including: Speech Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Social Worker, Mental Health Practitioner, Behaviour Therapist, Art Therapists and Youth Worker. It is our goal for every student to have friends, feel happy and are successful in their schooling with us.

Even though all students have the right to be included and access their local mainstream school, by choosing to enrol your child at Jackson School you are giving your child a specialised and personal learning pathway to their future. By trusting us with your child's education we are committed to them experiencing success in their learning. We provide them with a positive, safe and inclusive learning environment where they will belong and be accepted as member of our community.

We value and welcome the involvement of parents and carers to ensure all students achieve their potential. This partnership ensures every student graduating from Jackson School experiences a successful post-school pathway and career. We look forward to working with you to enable your child to become a valued and contributing member of the wider community.



Learning



Celebrating 50 Golden Years

St Albans Special School was opened in 1976 by Assistant Minister for Education Brian Dixon. St Albans Special School was one of four Special Schools opened that year only preceded by five other special schools. Des English was in inaugural Principal of St Albans Special School. At that time, the school consisted of two teaching blocks containing 12 classrooms and an administration block surrounding an open courtyard. The school had a potential enrolment of 144 students with a mild to moderate intellectual disability. The school originally catered for students aged 5 to 16, with classrooms arranged for juniors, middles and seniors. The school had a total of 21 staff and one aide for the entire school including the Deaf Unit staff.

St Albans Deaf Unit was also housed in the school initially occupying two classrooms and an Auditory Training room growing to four classrooms between 1976 – 1985. St Albans Deaf Unit was the result of intense lobbying by the late Val Davies for a school for Deaf children in the Western suburbs. St Albans Deaf Unit was, in fact, the first of its kind in Victoria. St Albans Deaf Unit began with 8 students aged 3 to 6. Principal Ron Bryant undertook the Principalship in 1977.

In 1980, two portables were placed on the school campus to cater for the increasing number of deaf enrolments and the need for extra classrooms for the Special School. The "Deaf Unit" became St Albans School for the Deaf with Peter Freyer appointed Principal. Increasing enrolments in both the Deaf School and Special School required the addition of another portable in 1981, which was shared between both schools. The partnership with St Albans School for the Deaf ended in 1985 when Furlong Park School for the Deaf opened in June 1986.

St Albans Special School was renamed in 1989 to Jackson School to honour the work of Russel Jackson. A neighbour of the school, Russ became involved with the school doing odd jobs around the school, setting up the catering area, flat and the off-site nursery program. Russ went on to become School Council President and continued to be involved with the school and the school council until he retired in 2012 aged 97. Russ was a valued member of the St Albans Special/Jackson School community for over 30 until his death in 2013 aged 98.

The catering and nursery programs were introduced to provide ongoing work experience for older students and assist in their transition to TAFE. The nursery, Blooming Sunshine, was run together with the MS centre. The Flat was set up including a kitchen to develop catering and independent living skills.

The Futures Program, which began in 1996, had a significant impact on the school as older students were provided with post-school options and the leaving aged was capped at 18. The Jackson School "Young Adults" program for students in their final years of schooling was set up by Principal John Healey to provide a stimulating program for our older students and create a pathway for a smooth transition to post-school options.

With student enrolments growing, Principal Nella Stephenson re-imagined the support offered to our students with the introduction of at least one Education Support (ES) staff member in every classroom. The school site began to change with the extension to the front entrance and office and the installation of the synthetic sports field with oval, running track and basketball courts.



Celebrating 50 Golden Years

The construction of the school hall and the significant improvements to existing buildings through the BER program created opportunities to expand the variety of programs the school was able to provide and greatly increase the educational opportunities for all students.

Principal Bev Fegan started at Jackson School in 2012 redeveloping the courtyard and commenced the renovations of our 1976 original classrooms. Bev began the work on redeveloping the whole school focus on curriculum. In 2013, the structure of the school changed with the introduction of VCAL (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning now Victorian Pathways Certificate). This enabled Year 11 and 12 students with work with many external partners to access many different VET courses and School Based Apprentices and Training (SBAT). The school celebrated their first offsite Year 12 Graduation ceremony in 2014. This has enabled our learners to become contributing members of the wider community. Bev also invested heavily in digital technologies to support our students to enter our ever-changing world.

Principal Joan O'Connor-Cox began her Principalship in 2015 and established our Professional Learning Teams (PLTs) to enable Jackson to become a *Collaborative Learning Community for all*. Joan worked to ensure that our families were connected to our community through a range of community events, including: Concert in the Courtyard and Values Week (including Russ Jackson Day). As part of the Inclusive Schools Fund, the Department invested \$200,000 for two new play spaces which was officially opened by the Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, the Hon. James Merlino on 14th March 2017. The demolition of the bus bay saw the start of the school-wide modernisations.

In 2015, the school partnered with the University of Melbourne Network of School (UMNoS) which brought about the establishment of the Jackson Teaching and Learning Model and Framework paved the way for a consistent approach to evidence-informed teaching and learning based upon the Victorian Curriculum.

In 2020 Jackson School received \$10 million from the Victorian Government. In addition to the \$10 million received, School Council have also invested an additional \$2.4 million. Principal Anthony Jackson worked with the VSBA to deliver these \$12.4 million state-of-the-art facilities for our students for years to come. On 9th February 2024, the Hon. Natalie Suleyman, the MP for St Albans, officially opened the new buildings. These included: 12 new Classrooms including a STEM Lab, an Allied Health Centre and Art Therapy space, a new Prep-Year 2 Playground, a new Library and Community Hub, a new Performing Arts Centre with Radio and Film Studios, a new Café with Hospitality Kitchen, a new Staffroom with dedicated PLT space and new staff toilets, resource room and basketball canopy.

The Travel Education program was further expanded in 2025 with the addition of our Jackson Transport Hub with a mock train station, pedestrian crossing and bus/tram interchange. This program will continue to support Jackson students to safely access public transport for further education, training and employment.

Over 2025-2026 we see a further \$2.8 million investment, including: full renovations of the 1976 permanent classrooms; a new junior playground on the original site of the first playground; a senior ninja course, two independent theatres in the hall with retractable, tiered seating, LED screens and admin building renovation.





Junior School (Prep- Year 4)



In Foundation (Prep-Year 2) students learn through a play-based approach focused around English, Maths, and Independent Learning aligned to Inquiry learning themes. Students also participate in the Gross Motor Program (GMP) and the Imaginative Play Program facilitated by the Allied Health team of Occupational Therapists and Speech Pathologists.

In Lower Primary (Years 3 and 4) our students continue a strong focus of English and Maths and influenced by an Inquiry Topic each term based upon the Humanities and Sciences. These are themed around two bi-annual themes of “Me and Our History” and “Me and Our World”. In Independent Learning lessons, students participate in the following programs: Rights, Resilience and Respectful Relationships (RRRR), eSMART (Cyber Safety, Respect Online, Digital Responsibility), School-wide Positive Behaviour Intervention & Supports (SWPBS) and Health & Fitness.

Junior School students take part in a late night/sleep over at school each year in readiness for external camps. Students experience incursions and excursions aligned to their Inquiry learning each term including a regular swimming program each year.

Middle School (Years 5-8)



In the Middle School, Upper Primary (Years 5-6) and Lower Secondary (Years 7-8) continue to build on their learning in English (Reading and Writing, Writing, Speaking and Listening) and Maths (Number, Algebra, Measurement, Space/Geometry, Statistics and Probability).

Their Inquiry Topic each term is based upon the Humanities and Sciences. These are themed around two bi-annual themes of “Me and Our History” and “Me and Our World”. In Independent Learning lessons, students participate in the following programs: Rights, Resilience and Respectful Relationships (RRRR), eSMART (Cyber Safety, Respect Online, Digital Responsibility), School-wide Positive Behaviour Intervention & Supports (SWPBS) and Mental Health Health & Fitness.

Middle School students take part in a bi-annual camp program. Students experience incursions and excursions aligned to their Inquiry learnieach term including a wet and dry swimming program each year. In Lower Secondary students also take part in a bi-weekly Travel Education program where they learn how to use public transport safety and appropriately with the support of our staff. This commences at school at our school-based Jackson Station and Transport Hub.

In Upper Secondary (Years 9 -10) students continue their studies in English and Mathematics through our World of Work program where students work in a rotation of project-based teams (Production, Service and Marketing/Finance) to run the school cafe. Travel Education is explicitly taught in our secondary years with an aim to have students travel independently by the time they reach Senior Secondary to independently access work education and employment opportunities.

In Senior Secondary (Years 11-12), students take one of two pathways. Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC) supports our students to continue their education after graduating in further education, training or employment. The ASDAN program, an internationally accredited program, offers a higher level of support and develops students' independent living skills through a range of real-world experiences in the community.

In Senior Secondary, students spend three days a week offsite taking part in VET courses, Work Experience and Apprenticeships. In our Senior School we offer a camp each year with our Year 11 and 12 students finishing their year with a 5 day Victorian camp.



Senior School (Years 9-12)

Our Allied Health Team work primarily in the classrooms in collaboration with Teachers and Education Support Staff to provide adjustments and support to meet individual student's learning needs. Our Speech Pathologists support the development of students' communication skills to enable them to access the school curriculum to the best of their ability. Our Occupational Therapists also work with staff to increase students' participation and independence across the school day.

Our Mental Health Team provide early intervention to support students' mental health and wellbeing. These include small group Art Therapy delivered by our in-house Art Therapists, Music Therapy and Canine Therapy sessions. Our Mental Health Practitioner also provides individual counselling sessions for students in Years 5-12.

Our Hands On Learning learning program is a supported work experience program which in turn helps student's re-engagement at school. This includes Jackson Farm in partnership with Keilor Downs Secondary College.

Our Social Worker and Youth Worker provide targeted support to students and their families and provide many connections with external support services and agencies. Each of our sub-schools are also supported by a Leading Teacher and PLT Leaders.



Allied Health, Mental Health & Wellbeing



Specialist Curriculum Areas

Our Health and Physical Education program promotes a happy, healthy and active lifestyle through a wide variety of drills and games. These develop motor skills, game rules and teamwork. A bicycle education program is offered to all students. In our Hall, a traverse-climbing wall is used to develop physical strength and encourage physical problem-solving skills. Our undercover basketball court, oval and running tracks are also used daily by students.

Our Performing and Media Arts programs is delivered in three state-of-the-art learning areas: music/dance/drama studio, film studio, and film studio. It encourages students to be creative to develop self-confidence and self-esteem that can be applied in all areas of learning. All students can perform in our annual Concert in the Courtyard.

Our Visual Arts Program aims to instigate the artistic potential of each and every student. All students get to showcase their artworks in the annual Art and Design Show.

Our Design Technology program is provided for our Secondary students. The program is designed to provide students with the opportunity to use and explore a range of materials, resources and equipment. Students are taught to develop their hand skills to design and create individual design pieces involving wood, metal and plastic.

Our STEM program integrates Digital and Design Technologies through a lens of Science. Students learn 21st Century skills using media art, coding (Bee Bots), robotics (LEGO, Sphero), 3D Printing (Makers Empire). All students at Jackson have a 1:1 school-owned device from iPads in Prep-Year 8 to tablet laptops in Years 9-12.





Jackson

School

Administration