



PERTH MODERN SCHOOL

CURRICULUM OPPORTUNITIES 2015 AND BEYOND

School Vision

Perth Modern School's purpose is to nurture a love of learning in order to develop academically gifted and talented students enabling them to reach their full academic potential. We aspire to develop engaged, creative, independent lifelong learners who will be contributing and responsible members of the global community.

The Perth Modern School experience reflects **both** an exceptional academic outcome and exceptional 'rounded' experience in a **co-educational** environment. Students can be confident they are involved in the highest quality teaching and learning environment with a cohort of like-minded peers. **Additionally**, students enjoy a wide variety of co-curricular opportunities through music, sport, clubs and tours.

At Perth Modern School the curriculum is designed to provide opportunities for students intending to progress to tertiary studies. Teaching and learning programs reflect the expectation that our highly able students have the ability and desire to be challenged through a broad education.

Our curriculum encompasses:

- high expectations for all students
- gifted and talented teaching and learning principles
- curriculum which is differentiated, compacted and accelerated
- appropriate challenge
- deep core learning
- breadth
- learning beyond the classroom
- personalised learning opportunities
- co-curricular opportunities
- support for all students
- personal development



PERTH MODERN SCHOOL

Exceptional schooling. Exceptional students.

INDEPENDENT PUBLIC SCHOOL



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TIMETABLE STRUCTURE

Our innovative timetable will operate on a 10 day cycle with designated weeks A and B. This will allow for a smoother curriculum delivery. Periods will be 54 minutes in length with some doubles to permit deep exploration and core learning to take place.

ADVOCACY

Our Advocacy program will continue to contribute to the wellbeing and well-rounded growth and support of our students through emphasis on social and emotional wellbeing. Advocacy will add to the curriculum through developing effective organisational skills, interpersonal relationships and an appreciation of the value of community service and 'giving back'. School spirit and connection will be advanced through participation in House activities and whole school events. Students in the Middle Years will participate in camps to develop relationships, health and wellness and leadership skills. Special Advocacy groups will be formed for students involved in the Student Council and students interested in sustainability.

MUSIC

Central to the Perth Modern School experience is our renowned music program. Perth Modern School has an international reputation for excellence in performance and music studies. Over 500 Music students take part in a dynamic, classically-based program and are taught by highly skilled musicians. Individuals will continue to benefit from working with like-minded students who are passionate about music. Students will also have every opportunity to grow their skills through performance in a range of choirs, orchestras and ensembles. Our choirs, orchestras and ensembles perform publicly at major cultural events. Every third year, our music students have the opportunity to travel to an overseas music festival and to visit other centres of music excellence.

MOD TIME

Mod Time, which until now has focussed on Years 11–12 students, will expand its function to encompass all year groups in 2015. Mod Time will provide structured cross-year group time to develop skills and knowledge outside the regular curriculum. Middle Years students will have the opportunity to be involved in cross-year group choirs or clubs. Clubs will centre around activities such as drama, music, computing and sport (for example). In the Senior Years, students will participate in health and wellness activities, career and university lectures as well as listening to guest speakers from various professions.

CO-CURRICULAR SPORT

The Co-curricular Sport program caters for students at all levels and is highly valued for its contribution to the development of the whole child. Students may participate in a variety of before and after school activities and day carnivals. A wide range of sporting opportunities will continue to be available for interschool sport competitions with the following sports having a very strong record of participation and success: swimming, volleyball, tennis, basketball, netball, badminton, soccer, cricket, AFL and athletics. A strong club culture complements the sport program by giving students the opportunity to participate in table tennis, boot camp, sailing, fencing, rowing and other recreational activities.

CO-CURRICULAR CLUBS

We believe learning extends beyond the classroom. Students are encouraged to participate in school life through involvement in Co-curricular activities. Clubs such as Chess, Engineering, Astronomy and Sustainability provide opportunities to promote new skills and interests as well as friendships. Activities including conventions, drama productions and international tours contribute to an involved *whole-of-life* education. Students are provided with the choice of a variety of clubs and competitions to extend their skills, including interschool sport, debating, Future Problem Solving, Tournament of Minds, mathematics, science, languages and writing, amongst others.





THE MIDDLE YEARS' CURRICULUM (YEARS 7–9)

CORE PHILOSOPHY: ENGAGE STUDENTS IN THE LOVE OF LEARNING

The Middle Years' curriculum focuses on providing opportunities for students in a broad range of areas so they may explore their strengths and passions and demonstrate their personal best. The focus is on developing all aspects of our students through breadth and depth within and beyond the classroom. The curriculum is compacted, extended and enriched. Within this framework, students will have opportunities for acceleration by subject or by year. Self-esteem and confidence will be developed through challenge and achievement. Students will explore 'Who am I?', 'What are my strengths and challenges?', 'How do I relate to others?' and 'Where do I fit into the world?.'

Specifically the curriculum will embed:

Year 7	Know Thyself—Personal and Social Competence	Value: Respect Yourself
Year 8	Self and Others—Community and ethical understandings	Value: Respect Others
Year 9	Self and Community—National, Global, Universal and Intercultural understandings	Value: Respect the Space

Typically, students in Year 7 will follow a set timetable which will include core studies, a wide range of creative electives and an *Apprenticeship in Thinking* component. Perth Modern School offers **five languages** and Year 7 students will explore each major language before they settle on their preferred option. In Years 8–9, additional to the core studies and *Apprenticeship in Thinking*, students will have the opportunity to select their language and creative electives. In Years 8–9 students may choose to continue with class level or the specialist extension music program. As part of the music program, students will participate in choirs, orchestras and bands.

APPRENTICESHIP IN THINKING

Fundamental to the Middle Years' curriculum is the *Apprenticeship in Thinking*. In contemporary educational thinking, the teaching of innovation is considered increasingly important in a rapidly changing world. The Australian Curriculum and its General Capabilities emphasise creativity, critical thinking and problem-solving as well as communication and collaboration. Cultivating these 21st Century learning skills is the cornerstone of our *Apprenticeship in Thinking* in the Middle Years. A key aim is the teaching of structured visible thinking, particularly through the integration of the philosophical Community of Inquiry, Thinking Routines, and Habits of Mind. We believe that thinking involves the structured learning of a skill set and the appropriate habits or dispositions for thinking.

The *Apprenticeship in Thinking* links directly to key principles of Gifted and Talented best practice. It engages students conceptually in real world issues. It differentiates learning in accordance with each student's interests by providing opportunity for choice. It extends the learning experience by its emphasis on analysis, evaluation and synthesis, which are the phases of higher-order thinking that must be used in the process of researching, problem-solving, and the planning and presenting of innovative solutions and ideas to an audience. In this way, students at Perth Modern School are given the opportunity to develop important learning skills for the 21st Century, as captured in the General Capabilities of the Australian Curriculum.

THE SENIOR YEARS' CURRICULUM (YEARS 10–12)

CORE PHILOSOPHY: ACHIEVEMENT

The Senior Years' curriculum provides opportunities for successful outcomes for students so they may reach their post-school goals. Fundamental to Senior School is the young adult ethos which fosters independence, individual and social responsibility and the achievement of personal best. Opportunities to develop a broad portfolio which enhances post-school options are encouraged through a commitment to co-curricular experiences and community service. Students at Perth Modern School complete many hours of community service through Youth Ambassadors and the Booster Club. Students have the opportunity to develop global understandings through co-curricular activities and extensive international tours.

The curriculum provides opportunities for choice through individual pathways. Students may choose to accelerate by course or year to meet their study goals. Students are encouraged to explore breadth as well as depth with a requirement from Year 10 for courses to represent a balance of both List 1 and List 2 Courses, based on West Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) requirements.

From 2015, as a **core initiative**, Year 10 students will complete 14 semester-long courses, seven in each semester. This allows students to mix and match courses for an individually-mapped program. Students will study as a minimum, two semesters of English and one semester each of Mathematics, Social Science, Science and Physical Education at Year 10 or Year 11 levels. Students may make up the remainder of the program with Year 10 level courses or a mix of Year 10–11 courses. The Year 10 program allows students to specialise in areas of interest at a level for which they are ready. Students studying a Year 11 course will make this choice for the whole year.

In Years 11–12 students will have seven course choices. Year 11 students will do a minimum of six year-long WACE courses, plus one additional WACE or recreation course. Year 12 students will complete a minimum of five year-long courses, plus one (minimum) or two additional WACE courses or one semester of recreation or private study.



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Clubs	Competitions	Music Program	Senior School Courses: Stage 3	
			List 1	List 2
Art	Art Exhibitions (various)	Chamber Ensembles–Wind and String	<i>Please note: name changes will occur in 2015.</i>	
Astronomy	Australasian Intermediate Maths Olympiad	Choir–Boys	Ancient History	Accountancy and Finance
Booster Club (Community Service)	Australasian Maths Olympiad	Choir–Girls	Chinese Heritage	Biological Science
Food	Australasian Maths Olympiad Committee	Choir–Mixed	Chinese Second Language	Chemistry
Cake Decorating	Australasian Problem Solving Maths Olympiad	Classical Guitar Ensembles	Design–Photography	Computer Science
Chess	Australian Brain Bee	Jazz Band	Drama Studies	Human Biological Sciences
Dance	Australian Geographic	Junior and Senior Orchestra	Economics	Mathematics Applications
Drama	Beijing Youth Science Competition	String Orchestra	English	Mathematics Methods
Engineering	Big Science Competition	Wind Band	Food Science	Mathematics Specialist
Future Problem Solving	Black Swan Portraiture	Sport – Clubs and Competitions	French	Physics
Homework Club	Book in a Day	AFL– Boys and Girls	Geography	Psychology
Mathematics Club	City of Subiaco Art Awards	Archery	Italian	Languages Middle Years
Robotics	Dorothea McKellar Poetry	Badminton	Japanese	Chinese Background
Sculpture – Design and Technology	F1 in Schools	Beach Volleyball	Literature	Chinese Heritage
Sphinx Magazine	Have Sum Fun	Boot Camp	Modern History	French
Sustainability	Have Sum Fun Online	Cricket	Music–Western Art Music	Italian
Technology	ICAS Science, Maths, English, Computing	Cross Country	Philosophy	Japanese
Youth Ambassadors	Karen W Treanor Youth Awards (Poetry)	Dance	Physical Education Studies	Partnerships
Camps and Tours Middle Years	Make Your Own Story Book	Fencing	Politics and Law	Australian Girls' Choir
Canberra Tour (Year 9)	Maths Challenge	Hockey	Visual Art	Aaralyn Children's Choir
Netball Camp	Maths Talent Quest	House Athletics Carnival	Middle Years Electives	Curtin University
Swimming Camp	Mock Trial	House Beach Carnival	Aquatic Recreation	Graduate College of Ballet
Whole Year Camps (Years 7–9)	National Chemistry Quiz	House Swimming Carnival	Design and Technology	Telethon Kids Institute
Camps and Tours Senior Years (may not run every year)	National History Challenge	Jazz Dance	Digital Technologies	Japan–Akishima City
Arts and Technology	National Young Writers awards	Lightning Carnivals Years 8–10	Drama	Dr Norm Hoffman The Western Australian Mathematics Problem Solving Program
Chinese Language	OzCLO Linguistic Competition	Netball – Boys and Girls	Visual Arts	Pilbara Iron Ore
European History	Perspectives	Rowing	Food Technologies	Parma Italy–Liceo Scientifico Guglielmo Marconi
French Language	Photography (various)	Rugby	Music–Class or Extension	The University of Western Australia
Italian Language	Python Competition	Sailing	Design–Photography	Special Programs
Japanese Language	Science Café	Soccer	Physical Recreation	Euler Enrichment Series
Music (every third year)	Science IQ	SSWA Athletics	Practical Engineering	Gauss Enrichment Series
NASA Space Camp	SCRAM	SSWA Swimming	Sports Challenge	IGGY membership
NIDA Drama Tour	Sleek Geeks	SSWA Triathlons	Specialised Sport–netball/soccer	Noether Enrichment Series
Photography Camp	Tim Winton Award for Young Writers	Super 8 Cricket		Polya Enrichment Series
Volleyball – Melbourne	Tournament of Minds	Swimming club		Thinking Science Australia
Ski Trip	UNSW Australian Economics and Business Studies Competitions	Table Tennis		Skills Week
World Expedition	UNYouth Evatt Trophy	Tennis		Keys for Life–Driver Education
Conventions	UNYouth Voice	Touch Rugby		Employment Advantage
CCI Forum	WA Debating League–Junior	Volleyball		
Health Expo	WA Debating League – Senior	Yoga		
Mini Science Conference UWA	West Australian Junior Olympiad			
National Youth Science Forum	Write4Fun			
Premier's ANZAC tour	Youth on Health			
RAC BStreetSmart				
Thinking Convention				
UNYouth State				
UNYouth Young Leaders				

SCHOOL VALUES

Members of the school community share, model and promote the following core values:

RESPECT YOURSELF

This can be demonstrated by:
Reaching for personal best
Setting high ethical standards
Engaging in the love of learning
Self-acceptance
Self-responsibility
Making the most of opportunities
Celebrating success

RESPECT OTHERS

This can be demonstrated by:
Care of others
Valuing individuality and diversity
Displaying manners
Celebrating the success of others
Community mindedness
Social and civic responsibility
Being a global citizen

RESPECT THE SPACE

This can be demonstrated by:
Care of the environment
Care of the facilities
Sustainable practices
Conservation
Conduct appropriate to the environment



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