



“

The development of  
a tree depends on  
where it is planted.

*Edward Jayner, Yale Univ. School*

”

# Centralian Middle School PARENT HANDBOOK



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## Acknowledgement of First Nations' People

Centralian Middle School would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land on which our school is located. We honour and respect the cultural heritage, customs and beliefs of all First Nations' people.

We recognise that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have spiritual, social, and cultural connections with their traditional lands and waters. We give thanks for the contribution these diverse cultures and identities have made to our community.

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# Principal's Welcome

I am delighted that you are considering Centralian Middle School for your children. We offer education delivered by experienced, highly qualified and professional staff.

Your child's education is your first priority as well as ours. We see ourselves as partners in your child's learning and in their personal development, offering a balanced curriculum that addresses each child as a unique person with his or her own strengths, needs, aspiration and interests.

We aim to develop independent and articulate young people who care for and respect others; and who are prepared to set them-selves high standards and achieve them.

I look forward to meeting with you to discuss how we can secure your child's future.

Andrew Leslie  
Principal | B.Ed (Syd), M.Ed (Syd)

## Our Vision

Centralian Middle School challenges every learner to achieve success in a safe and supportive community where diversity is valued.

# A Focus on Learning

## CURRICULUM

### Core Subjects

All students are instructed in the following core subject areas:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Studies of Society & Environment (SOSE)
- Health & Physical Education
- Languages Other Than English (LOTE)
- Pastoral Care

Core subjects are taught in single and double lessons throughout the week, as such it is important that your child has a subject timetable both at home and in his/her diary so they may have the relevant exercise and text books required for each day of the school week.

### Arts, Design & Technology Programs

Courses offered:

- Visual Arts
- Design & Technology
- Food Technology
- Textiles
- Multimedia
- Advanced PE (Yr 9 only)

Year 7 students are given a 'taste' of four programs over the course of the year.

Years 8 and 9 students may elect which two programs they will participate in over the school year.

### Vocational Education & Training (VET)

Year 9 students may elect to complete VET Certificates as part of their curriculum. Workplace training composes a large portion of the learning. Students who complete the training will receive the relevant Certificate from Charles Darwin University.

Courses Offered:

- Hospitality Cert. I
- Rural Operations Cert. I
- Automotive Cert. I
- Resources & Infrastructure Cert. I

## DATA COLLECTION

All students will undergo individualised On Demand Testing twice a year. The results gained from these tests are used by staff to inform their teaching.

## REPORTING

Each semester each student will receive:

- Progress Report (Terms 1 and 3)
- End of Semester A-E report as per national guidelines (Terms 2 and 4)
- Parent Teacher Interviews (Terms 1 and 3)

### Assessment

Assessment is integral to the whole learning process, enabling teachers to:

Identify what students know and can do, or don't know and can't do; Monitor learning programs and plan for remediation or extension; Ensure continuity in student learning and; provide feedback to students and parents.

## National Assessment Program – Literacy & Numeracy (NAPLAN)

All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are assessed using national tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation) and Numeracy. In Term 3, parents will receive a result indicating their child's level of literacy and numeracy against a national benchmark standard.

## HOMEWORK

Homework plays an important role in enabling students to maximise their academic potential. It reinforces work done in class and helps to develop research skills and time management. Homework may be classified as practice exercises, preparation for a class task or extension assignments.

## TEACHING STAFF

At Centralian Middle School we are proud to have a caring and supportive staff cohort. All CMS staff undergo professional development on a regular basis

throughout the school year to ensure that they are up skilled in a variety of areas, chiefly around student wellbeing and learning.

Our staff are lead by a highly motivated Executive Committee and Leadership Team.

## STAFF LEARNING

Staff are encouraged to continue their learning journey whilst at CMS. Each year there are four (4) Professional Development days when all staff undertake essential collaborative education to ensure consistency and best practice across our school.

The education sector is second only to parents in the amount of time spent with children. It therefore has a significant role to play in child protection. Accordingly, all staff employed within schools are provided with training in the identification and reporting of harm to children in line with Mandatory Reporting legislation.

# A Focus on Wellbeing

## PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care lessons are held once a week, these lessons provide a forum for students to learn about themselves and how they may better interact with each other in a safe environment.

## WELLBEING TEAM

Centralian Middle School has an established wellbeing team which meets with the purpose of providing a forum, for representatives from both onsite school programs (CLONTARF, Girls Academy, Girls at the Centre) and other school representatives (HLO's, Community Engagement Officer, School Nurse, Counsellor, the School-Based Constable and the Assistant Principal) to participate in the strategic planning, implementation, and the ongoing evaluation, of the well-being of students, staff and families of the school community.

The wellbeing team is also responsible for providing an opportunity for confidential peer discussion, information sharing, support and debriefing.

**The objectives for the wellbeing team include:**

- Evaluating current practice and develop systems and processes for the Centralian Middle School Wellbeing Team that promotes best practice in the care and support of students, staff and families. And,
- To systematically review Centralian Middle School Wellbeing Team's resources such as policies, protocols and procedures, and undertake research to ensure that the resources are current, benchmarked and support best practice.

## BEHAVIOUR

All members of the CMS community are expected to abide by the **Safe Schools NT Code of Behaviour**; The rights of all students and teachers to learn, to teach, to be safe, to be treated with respect and dignity.

**The following behaviour will not be tolerated at Centralian Middle School:**

- Disobeying a reasonable request by a member of staff.
- Physical assault or verbal abuse.
- Cyber bullying and harassment.
- Vandalism, Stealing.
- Possession or use of: weapons, illicit drugs, alcohol or tobacco products.

In determining consequences, the school will consider individual circumstances and apply the principles of natural justice.



# A Focus on Leadership

## SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

Centralian Middle School operates under the guidance of a staff Executive Committee and a Leadership Team. The Executive Committee is made up of: Principal, Assistant Principal: Learning, Assistant Principal: Wellbeing and a representative from both the Wellbeing and Teaching and Learning teams. The Leadership Team consists of: Principal, Assistant Principals, Visible Learning Coach, Literacy Coach, Year Level Coordinators, Curriculum Coordinators and a representative from the Wellbeing Team.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

In February of each year Centralian Middle School holds an Annual General Meeting (AGM) to elect a School Council. This council is a blend of parents and staff who work together to oversee the direction of CMS. The School Council play an important role in ensuring the whole community is involved and informed of the decisions made by the council. Being a member of the School Council is a good way for you to represent parents on important school matters. The School Council meets every month during school terms (approximately 8 times a year). Meetings are generally held in the evening at a time convenient to the members.

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The Student Leadership group consists of the School Captains and Vice-Captains in addition to the House Captains and House Vice-Captains. These students are elected by their peers and the School Captains and Vice-Captains are sworn into their leadership positions in front of the school congregation at Presentation Night the year before they take the positions.

## STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

The Student Representative Council (SRC) is made up of peer-elected students from all Year levels and includes students from Learning Support. The SRC are involved in making decisions for the student cohort and often in the organisation of school events such as CMS socials and Harmony Day. They take a visible lead in weekly assemblies and encourage the student community to be the best they can be.

# General Information

## ATTENDANCE

In the Northern Territory students of compulsory school age (6-17 years) must attend school regularly. Attendance is recorded at the beginning of each lesson. Centralian Middle School comes under the NT Government's jurisdiction for the Student Engagement & Attendance Measures (SEAM); families who do not ensure the regular attendance of their child/ren may face financial penalties.

## SCHOOL HOURS

The school day begins at 8:30am and concludes at 3:00pm Monday through to Friday. Students are expected to be at school by 8:20am so that they are present in Home Group for the first roll marking at 8:30am.

## TERM DATES

Please refer to our website for term dates for the current school year  
[www.cms.nt.edu.au/Parents/Term-Dates](http://www.cms.nt.edu.au/Parents/Term-Dates)

## UNIFORMS

As per Government Legislation, all students in Primary and Middle Schools must be in full school uniforms on every school day. Centralian Middle School is happy to offer your child a wide range of uniform options to suit their needs throughout the year. All students are entitled to three (3) uniform items at the beginning of the school year; these are provided by Back to School Voucher funds and a subsidy from the School Council.





## UNIFORMS (CONT.)

Uniforms can be purchased from Student Access during working hours (including school holidays) or online [www.cms.nt.edu.au/Parents/Uniforms](http://www.cms.nt.edu.au/Parents/Uniforms)

Covered shoes are a compulsory element of the Centralian Middle School uniform and must be worn each day for Occupational Health & Safety reasons.

## BACK TO SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Uniforms and stationary starter-packs may be purchased from Student Access. The use of a diary is required, these are provided in the stationary starter pack, or alternatively may be purchased separately for \$10.00.

## TRAVEL TO & FROM SCHOOL

### Bus Travel

Information regarding bus travel to and from Centralian Middle School can be obtained from Student Access or online: [www.transport.nt.gov.au/transport/school-bus-service/alice](http://www.transport.nt.gov.au/transport/school-bus-service/alice)

### Bicycles, Scooters & Skateboards

Centralian Middle School has a secure shed where students may lock their bike, scooter or skateboard. Such modes of transportation may not be used on school grounds between 8:30am and 3:00pm. The shed is locked during school hours.

## SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS

Families will receive school communications on a regular basis, these communications may be in the form of text messages, school newsletters or personalised letters informing parents of important announcements or upcoming events.

We encourage all families to subscribe to our regular eNews which is delivered to inboxes on a weekly basis; you may subscribe online [www.cms.nt.edu.au/Contact-Us](http://www.cms.nt.edu.au/Contact-Us) or speak to our friendly office staff.

Centralian Middle School's premier community newsletter, Scoop is distributed twice a year in the Centralian Advocate at the end of each semester.



**We are respectful.**  
**We are responsible.**  
**We are fair.**

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