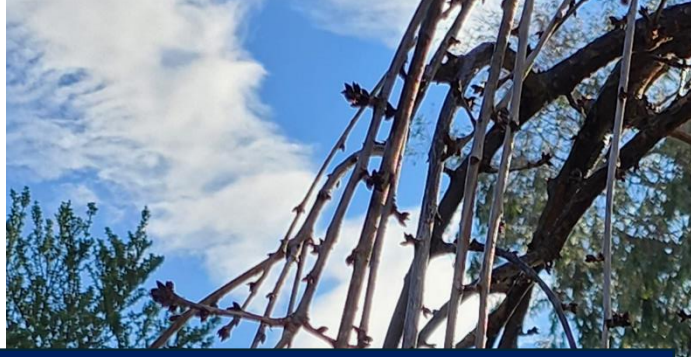
2027 Subject Handbook

Year 8

Lift Up Thine Eyes

VERMONT SECONDARY COLLEGE

Integrity, Respect, Excellence



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Subject Overview

The curriculum at Vermont Secondary College in Years 7 and 8 is rich, varied and challenging. The curriculum is based on the Victorian Curriculum and the understanding that the early years of secondary education should provide a solid intellectual grounding in all subject areas.

Year 8 Subjects

Year Long Subjects	Semester Length Subjects
English	Digital Technologies
Health & Physical Education	Drama
Language-French or German	Geography
Mathematics	History
Science	Food Studies
	Visual Communication Design

English

Students are engaged in reading, viewing, listening to, writing, creating, comparing, researching and talking about a range of text types. Students will explore the meaning of texts and how meaning is conveyed. They will develop critical understanding about the ways writers and speakers control language to position their listeners, readers and viewers.

Assessment Tasks

- **Writing tasks**
- **Speaking tasks**
- **Reading and responding tasks**

Additional Costs

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity.

Health and Physical Education

Year 8 Health and Physical Education is a coeducational program incorporating a wide range of activities designed to develop movement, coordination, and control as well as interpersonal skills, enabling students to function effectively as a part of a group or team and to promote knowledge and understanding of the importance of physical activity and optimal health and wellbeing. Physical Education activities focus on movement skills including athletics, invasion, net/wall, striking games and sports. The Year 8 Health unit covers a variety of topics including the Health Benefits of Physical Activity, Safety, Nutrition, Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships, Conception and Safe Sex Practices, Drugs and Alcohol and Mental Health and Wellbeing. Across Health and Physical Education, students develop Personal and Social capabilities including managing respectful relationships, resilience, empathy for others, emotional literacy and teamworking skills.

Assessment Tasks

- **Movement skills**
- **Strategic application and teamwork**
- **Benefits of physical**

Additional Costs

Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity.

Languages

Students choose between:

French

Students use French to describe their personal worlds and to interact and collaborate with their teachers and peers within and beyond the classroom. Listening, speaking, reading, writing and viewing activities are supported by scaffolding, modelling and feedback. Covered topics include personal introductions, family, pets, school, food, French villages - shops and facilities, houses, rooms, furniture, daily routine, telling the time, hobbies, holiday activities and chores.

Assessment Tasks

- **Listening**
- **Reading**
- **Writing**
- **Speaking**

Additional Costs

Competition (optional), excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity.

or

German

Students use German to describe their personal worlds and to interact and collaborate with their teachers and peers within and beyond the classroom. Listening, speaking, reading, writing and viewing activities are supported by scaffolding, modelling and feedback. Covered topics include personal introductions, school, family, pets, clothes, telling the time, daily routine, hobbies, food, drinks, the weather, buildings, giving directions, house types, rooms and furniture.

Assessment Tasks

- **Listening**
- **Reading**
- **Writing**
- **Speaking**

Additional Costs

Competition (optional), excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity.

Mathematics

Students develop useful mathematical skills applicable to numeracy across the curriculum, solve practical real-life problems, build up specialist knowledge that provides for further study in the discipline and strengthen their confidence in their personal knowledge of mathematics.

Assessment Tasks

- **Topic tests**
- **Assignments**
- **Semester tests**

Additional Costs

Competition (optional), excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity.

Science

Students explore the strand of Biology through the cell theory and relate this concept to mammalian systems, Chemistry explores the particle model, Physics focuses on energy and Earth Sciences studies the rock cycle and tectonic plates. Students develop their Scientific Inquiry Skills by undertaking directed and self-designed investigations whilst exploring the influence of science and enhancing scientific communication skills.

Assessment Tasks

- **Scientific reports**
- **Research tasks**
- **Tests**

Additional Costs

Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity.

Digital Technologies

Students use a range of ICT tools, techniques and functions to support their thinking processes. They model systems, develop their skills through investigation, design, production and evaluation while learning to use a general-purpose programming language. Students learn how computer network's function and strategies to mitigate online threats.

The following topics will be covered:

- **Decomposing real-world problems to design algorithms involving nested control structures and represent them using flowcharts and pseudocode**
- **Design and modify a user interface for a digital system and generate, communicate and evaluate alternative designs**
- **Implement, modify and debug programs involving control structures and functions in a general-purpose programming language**
- **Using tracing techniques to test and identify errors**
- **Evaluate existing and student-created solutions against the requirements, constraints and possible future impacts**
- **Computer networks and security**

Assessment Tasks

- **Issue analysis**
- **Research project**
- **Class tests**

Additional Costs

Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity.

Drama

Students develop dramatic skills and techniques such as the use of voice, gesture and movement, use of performance space, scriptwriting and script interpretation, as well as being a receptive audience member. Content material covers character and story development, use of conventions and production areas as well as responding to stimulus materials (text and images) to create performances.

Assessment Tasks

- **Writing tasks**
- **Performance Analysis Task**
- **Performance/Practical Tasks**
- **Major Ensemble Performance**

Additional Costs

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity.

Geography

Through the study of landforms and landscapes students will develop an understanding of the concept of environment and explore the significance of landscapes to people, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. In Changing Nations, students investigate the changing human geography of countries, as revealed by shifts in population distribution. Students will study mapping and graphing skills and explore the process of urbanisation, drawing on a study of a country in the Asian region.

Assessment Tasks

- **Test: Landscapes and landforms**
- **Fieldwork: Blackburn Lake**
- **Case Study: China**

Additional Costs

Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity.

Food Studies

This course introduces you to food preparation, and kitchen management. You'll learn how to create tasty meals, understand how food is made and processed, and build confidence in the kitchen. These practical skills will help you make healthier food choices, all while having fun and getting creative with food.

Assessment Tasks

- **Safety and hygiene media presentation**
- **Muffin designed solution**
- **Practical activities**
- **Bush foods designed solution**

Curriculum Link

Victorian Curriculum Design and Technologies: Food specialisations Pathway to VCE Food Studies Units 1-4

Additional Costs

Costs may be applied if students request materials that are over above the standard curriculum offered. Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity.

History

Students study the Medieval period and early exploration between 500 and 1500 CE. Areas of study: the Vikings, the Norman Conquests, the Crusades and the impact of the Black Death on Feudal Europe. Students also complete a Historical Investigation on one of the following:

- **The Ottoman Empire (1299-1683CE)**
- **Japan Under the Shoguns (c. 794-1867CE)**
- **Polynesian expansion across the Pacific (c. 700 – 1756CE)**

Assessment Tasks

- **Analytical writing**
- **Source analysis**
- **Historical investigation**

Additional Costs

Costs may be applied if students request materials that are over above the standard curriculum offered. Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity.

Visual Communication Design

Students look at Visual Communication Design, focusing on Message Design. Exposure to developmental and document drawings and typography are complemented with 3D design tasks. The use of raster based digital methods will complement the design program at this level. Students look at the design of other cultures and use design thinking skills to broaden their knowledge and understanding of design for different contexts.

Assessment Tasks

- **Drawing Folio**
- **Creative Font**
- **Minecraft Madness**
- **Symbol Solutions**
- **Perfect Packaging**

Additional Costs

Costs may be applied if students request materials that are over above the standard curriculum offered. Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity.