



Year 8 Parent Information 2026

Welcome to Year 8 in the Middle School

This booklet has been written to assist parents to know more about what happens in Year 8. One of the foremost aims of our College is to support families in raising thriving young adults in a complex and ever-changing world.

We provide a Christian, Lutheran culture where caring and positive relationships are encouraged and collaborate with parents to help teenagers come to know their strengths and values and prepare them for the future.

Every blessing to you and your child this year,

Coreta Lennon

Head of Middle and Senior Campus



Ms Coreta Lennon

Head of Middle and Senior Campus



Dr Susan Carter

Head of College

Contents

Successful Transition to Year 8	4
Nurturing Independence.....	4
For Middle School Success.....	4
Middle School Philosophy.....	4
Growth through Challenge.....	4
College Wellbeing Statement	5
Building Confidence and Belonging.....	5
Nurturing God-Given Potential.....	5
Creating Lifelong Learners.....	5
Organisational Strategies for Students	6
Assisting Students in Their Organisation to Manage Their Learning.....	6
Home Learning.....	6
Homework.....	6
Study Guide.....	7
Reporting	7
Standardised Testing.....	7
School Standardised Testing.....	7
Camps and Excursions	8
Co and Extra Curricular	8
Sporting Opportunities.....	8
Music Opportunities	8
Lunchtime Clubs and Extension Activities.....	8
Curriculum Leaders & Specialist Areas	10
Lesson Times.....	11
What Students Need to Bring to School Each Day.....	11
Parking and Student Pickup	11
Communication.....	12
Wellbeing Matters	12
Academic Matters.....	12
Communication of Daily Routines.....	13
Mobile Phone Guidelines.....	13
Uniform	13
Uniform Policy	13
College Campus Uniform Shop.....	13

Online and In Store Purchases	14
Second Hand Uniforms	14
Jewellery and Makeup.....	14
Hair.....	14
College Mobile App.....	14
Information Technology.....	15
Cyber Safety.....	15

Successful Transition to Year 8

Nurturing Independence

Middle School may be a time of awkwardness and self-doubt, but it is also a time of transformation and movement toward independence. With regard to its impact on human development, this period of life is second only to the period from infancy to age three.

For Middle School Success

Here are some tips to help your child succeed in the middle years of schooling.

- Encourage self-advocacy
- Encourage resilience
- Encourage positive risk-taking
Middle school is the perfect time to try new things and become comfortable with taking positive risks.
- Try a new sport
- Join a club or starting a new one
- Volunteer with or start a new service activity at school
- Expand one's circle of friends
- Try a music or art class
- Maintain Connection

Middle School Philosophy

Our purpose-designed Middle School Program provides a stimulating and supportive environment for students as they move through the challenging adolescent years. The curriculum supports and engages students in learning, promotes acceptance and belonging, and encourages personal development.

Growth through Challenge

Middle School students are challenged to work independently and collaboratively. The curriculum is responsive to the needs of adolescent learners, providing a range of learning experiences.

An important element of our learning culture is the acknowledgement that everyone learns in different ways and at different rates. We provide a differentiated curriculum and a wide variety of learning experiences. We are committed to putting students at the centre of learning, developing lifelong learners and providing opportunities to pursue personal excellence. We also encourage students to take responsibility for their own learning by teaching them learning and thinking strategies.

College Wellbeing Statement

Your child will be well understood, well cared for, safe, secure and supported. We believe the foundation for a successful and enjoyable school experience is to ensure the children in our care are supported in ways relevant to their needs.

The concept of honouring relationships is central to our Pastoral Care program. Right from Kindergarten, we encourage our students to understand that building good relationships with fellow students and the staff creates a happy school community, lived out daily through the application of the Four Rs – Respect, Relationships, Responsibility and Restoration.

Our Middle School program (Y7- 9) has been designed to support social, emotional and spiritual development throughout the challenging adolescent years to ensure students are prepared for the rigours of Senior schooling in Years 10–12.

We recognise the importance of powerful partnerships in guiding students through their learning journeys.

Building Confidence and Belonging

A successful graduate is nurtured not just in the classroom but also on the sports field, in the music room, when providing service to others, and away from school at camps. Co-curricular activities and our outdoor education program provide lessons in teamwork and determination, as well as opportunities to make friends and create memories.

We provide a range of co-curricular and extracurricular opportunities to further engage students in their school journey and help them discover their passions outside the classroom. Students can participate in sports, music (including singing, instrumental music and musicals), community service groups, and student-led clubs and activities. The co-curricular and extra-curricular activities will be advertised to students through the student notices.

Nurturing God-Given Potential

Our teachers have in-depth knowledge of their teaching areas and a wide understanding of the students in their care. They know their students' learning styles, interests, family environments and what makes them tick. They encourage students to accept responsibility for their own learning and teach them how to become lifelong learners, setting them on the path for success after school has finished.

Creating Lifelong Learners

Learning is our central purpose; we set high expectations and have a deep belief that all students can fulfil their potential. Our students are at the centre of all learning, and we take them on a journey where they are engaged in a varied curriculum with relevant experiences and diverse tools that cater for individual learning styles. Our learning programs from Kindergarten to Year 12 aim to develop and open minds. We believe strongly in a 'growth mindset', where potential—like a muscle—is something that can be trained and developed.

Organisational Strategies for Students

Assisting Students in Their Organisation to Manage Their Learning

Teachers assist students with their management of work habits, learning and wellbeing; to develop their personal and social capabilities. Therefore, teachers proactively and explicitly teach and develop students' study skills, organisational and goal setting capabilities to promote independence. Below are the strategies that teachers offer to students:

- Task due dates are entered on the Class Organisation Chart
- Students discover their personalised organisational strategy which will best suit their needs, i.e. hard copy diary, Microsoft Outlook calendar, 'sticky notes' on desktop, 'to do list' on desktop, etc.
- Check home learning tasks and assessment due dates appear on their student dashboard and task list.
- Ensure students know how to e-submit tasks on the learning management system
- Ensure students can locate assessment task sheets and resources on the learning management system
- Ensure students have a folder set up for all their subjects on One Drive and are saving their work.

Home Learning

Homework

To be successful with homework, the first thing a student should do is set up a good place to study. It should:

- Be away from the noise of TVs, YouTube and mobile phone
- Have no distractions
- Have adequate, strong light
- Be well-ventilated and at a comfortable temperature
- Have a comfortable, straight-backed chair
- Have a neat, clear desk with adequate space and good height.

Encourage your child to establish a regular time and place for study. Identify the times of the day when their concentration is at its best and help them plan to do the most challenging, most important and most creative tasks at these times.

It is recommended to study for 30-60 minutes and then take a 10 to 15 minute break. To stay alert and focussed, they could have a healthy snack, a glass of water and a short walk or similar physical activity.

Homework includes assignment work, revision and study.

Study Guide

It is expected that students will spend time on set homework or revision of the day's lessons. In addition to this, students should allocate time for extra study and assignments particularly prior to major tests and exams. Students are also expected to spend some time reading every day. The following times provide a guideline for the amount of homework your child should be completing.

Year Level	Recommended Study/Homework Time
7	Approximately 5 hours per week
8	Approximately 7 hours per week
9	Approximately 9 hours per week
10	Approximately 11 hours per week
11/12	Approximately 17+ hours per week

Reporting

Term	Report Type
Term 2	Semester Report with overall final grade, Extracurricular engagement, work habits and Pastoral Care class teacher written comment
Term 4	Semester Report with overall final grade, Extracurricular engagement, work habits and Pastoral Care class teacher written comment

Standardised Testing

School Standardised Testing

Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT) are conducted for Years 7-9 for Reading, Spelling and Mathematics. This testing occurs every year; with new students tested in Term 1.

Camps and Excursions

At each year level, students will be involved in excursions, incursions and camps related to their learning. Sub-school Wellbeing Coordinators oversee Camps and Learning Leaders, together with teachers, will organise excursions and incursions.

Outdoor education is a key component of our curriculum at Prince of Peace, and our varied, challenging program is central to holistic student development.

We believe that the outdoor education opportunities provided to our Middle and Senior School students support the development of confidence, self-sufficiency, initiative, teamwork and leadership skills. As such all students are expected to participate as part of their educational journey. Details of camps for each year level will be communicated to families in a timely manner.

Co and Extra Curricular

Co-curricular and extra-curricular programs offer all students a range of sporting, musical, cultural, physical and creative opportunities. These also provide students with opportunities to enrich their learning through teamwork, leadership, organisational skills, persistence, time management, social skills, self-esteem and confidence. Activities are advertised to students through assemblies, Pastoral Care Class and in daily notices.

Sporting Opportunities

Our goal is to provide a sporting program that complements club sport through focusing on skills development and teamwork. There are various avenues for students to get involved in sports dependent on their level of interest and ability—including opportunities to compete in the Yr 7-10 NISSA interschool competition. We also enter competitions such as the Brisbane Outer School Sporting League in Basketball and Volleyball; The North Brisbane Interschool Sport competition (Year 11 and 12); The Arana Hills Touch Football Competition and QC StreetSmarts Cricket competition.

Music Opportunities

In addition to classroom lessons, students can learn a wide range of instruments through our co-curricular music program. Our instrumental tutors offer weekly group or individual lessons for woodwind, brass, percussion, strings, voice, piano and guitar. All students taking part in the program are expected to participate in the College Ensemble.

Lunchtime Clubs and Extension Activities

Lunchtime clubs give students with similar interests the chance to explore their passions, meet new friends and engage with staff in a different learning setting. Clubs are student focused and may change from year to year to meet demand. Recent clubs include GROW (Sustainability Group), Fiction Addiction (Book Club), Chess Club, Life Essentials, Science Club and Student Leadership Council (SLC).

For those looking for an extra challenge, we offer our students the opportunity to participate in Dance and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) activities.

Teaching Teams & Pastoral Care Teachers

All of the following staff are here to support and enhance the learning and wellbeing of your child throughout Year 8.



Casey Veentjer

Middle School Wellbeing Coordinator

cveentjer@princeofpeace.qld.edu.au



Paul Gough

8A PC Teacher

pgough@princeofpeace.qld.edu.au



Melissa Gornall

8B PC Teacher

mgornall@princeofpeace.qld.edu.au



Megan Deam

8C PC Teacher

mdeam@princeofpeace.qld.edu.au

Curriculum Leaders & Specialist Areas

Head of Middle and Senior Campus – Coreta Lennon

Email: clennon@princeofpeace.qld.edu.au

Deputy Head of Campus – Nardine Price

Email: nprice@princeofpeace.qld.edu.au

Deputy K-12 Pedagogical Innovation – Ian Hayne

Email: ihayne@princeofpeace.qld.edu.au

Sub-school Wellbeing Coordinator (Middle School) – Casey Veentjer

Email: cveentjer@princeofpeace.qld.edu.au

Sub-school Wellbeing Coordinator (Senior School) – Richard Stevens

Email: rstevens@princeofpeace.qld.edu.au

Learning Enrichment Coordinator – Astred Norton

Email: anorton@princeofpeace.qld.edu.au

Maths & Science – Ashoo Rajput

Email: arajput@princeofpeace.qld.edu.au

Christian Studies – Sharon Grimes

Email: sgrimes@princeofpeace.qld.edu.au

Music/Instrumental Music, Visual Art & Drama Co-ordinator – Linda Brady

Email: lbrady@princeofpeace.qld.edu.au

HPE & Sport Coordinator - Gabby Collman

Email: cveentjer@princeofpeace.qld.edu.au

IT, Design & Technology, Food Technology & Media – Michael Gauldie

Email: mgauldie@princeofpeace.qld.edu.au

English & LOTE (Indonesian & Spanish) – Danielle Moore

Email: dmoore@princeofpeace.qld.edu.au

Business & Humanities – Katrina Voss

Email: kvoss@princeofpeace.qld.edu.au

Lesson Times

Monday, Tuesday, Friday		Wednesday, Thursday	
Worship / PC Class	8.20am – 8.50am	Lesson 1	8.20am – 9.10am
Lesson 1	8.55am – 9.45am	Lesson 2	9.10am – 10.00am
Lesson 2	9.45am – 10.35am	First Break	10.00am – 10.20am
First Break	10.35am – 10.55am	Lesson 3	10.25am – 11.15am
Lesson 3	11.00am – 11.50am	Lesson 4	11.15am – 12.05pm
Lesson 4	11.50am – 12.40pm	PC Class	12.10pm – 12.40pm
Second Break	12.40pm – 1.20pm	Second Break	12.40pm – 1.20pm
Lesson 5	1.25pm – 2.15pm	Lesson 5	1.25pm – 2.15pm
Lesson 6	2.15pm – 3.05pm	Lesson 6	2.15pm – 3.05pm
School Finishes	3.05pm	School Finishes	3.05pm

What Students Need to Bring to School Each Day

- Water bottle
- College hat
- Morning tea and lunch including fruit and healthy snacks
- Diary—if student chooses to have one
- Student bag
- Laptop
- Organisational folder
- Pencil case

Parking and Student Pickup

To assist us in managing the afternoon car and bus flow, please keep the following points in mind:

- Turn left after entering the campus and proceed to the ring road, then proceed to the top of the 'stop and go' area and wait for your children to exit or enter the car. For the safety of students, entry to the upper car park (to the right upon entering the College) will be closed from 7.45am – 8.20am and from 2.30pm – 3.15pm. Please assist us during these times by only using the ring road for student drop off and pickup - Be mindful that there is a pedestrian crossing soon after the sharp left.

- Please move up the ring road to collect your child so that we manage traffic and keep students safe. Please only use the 'stop and go' section for entry and exit of vehicles. Please do not allow your child to walk across the ring road traffic to enter your vehicle.
- Parents should not exit the car in the 'stop and go' area. If you need to exit your car then please park in the available bays.
- The afternoon peak time for the carpark is 3.05pm–3.15pm. By 3.15pm, most of the traffic is cleared.
- Students are supervised in the upper car park until 3.25pm, after which they are sent to the library to be supervised until 4.00pm. We advise parents not to collect/drop off their students on Henderson Road/Timms Road, as supervision is not provided in that area.
- Of a morning, students should be dropped off on the ring road.

Communication

At Prince of Peace we strengthen parent partnerships through regular communication between parents and teachers via:

- Face to face conversations
- Parent / Student / Teacher Conversations
- Direct Message communication through our learning management system
- Progressive Reporting through an online learning portal
- ['MyPoP' Parent Portal on College website](#)
- College Mobile App
- Social media ([Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#))
- [POPCORN Newsletter](#) (fortnightly editions)
- [The College Calendar](#)

Wellbeing Matters

- Pastoral Care teacher
- Sub-school Wellbeing Coordinator (Middle School)
- Head of Middle and Senior Campus

Academic Matters

- Subject teacher
- Curriculum Leader
- Learning Enrichment Coordinator
- Director of Staff & Students
- Head of Middle and Senior Campus

Communication of Daily Routines

- For illness or planned absence, please contact the College via phone: 3872 5656 or email absences@princeofpeace.qld.edu.au or use the mobile app
- Sick Bay staff will contact home if your child is sick at school
- Early departure – contact Senior Campus Reception

Mobile Phone Guidelines

Prince of Peace Lutheran College is a mobile phone and accessory free sanctuary for our students.

Students are required to store their mobile phones in their locker from the start of the school day (8.05am) until the final bell. When emergencies occur, parents can reach their child by calling the College Reception on 3872 5600.

Ear buds and headphones are not to be worn during break time or as students walk around the campus. These items will be confiscated if being used at these times.

Uniform

Uniform Policy

The Prince of Peace uniform must be worn to school every day and for special occasions as specified by the College. Students are also required to conform with the College's policy regarding jewellery, hair, make up, shoes and hats.

All students must comply with College uniform requirements from the time they leave home in the morning until they return home at the end of the day, including during travel to and from school and when out and about before, during or after school. All uniform items, except shoes and stockings, are to be purchased through the College uniform shop.

Parents should read the [College's Uniform Policy](#) prior to purchasing uniforms, clothing or shoes, to ensure they fully understand the uniform requirements and purchase the correct items.

College Campus Uniform Shop

Location: Junior Campus, 20 Rogers Parade West, Everton Park (located in G Block).

Contact: 07 3872 5720 / school@princeofpeace.qld.edu.au

Our Uniform Shop is managed by *The School Locker* and stocks all uniform items for Prep – Year 12, including accessories such as school bags and lunch boxes.

The Campus Uniform Shop is open during school terms at the following times:

Monday mornings: 7.30am – 9.30am

Thursday afternoons: 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Online and In Store Purchases

Uniforms are also available for purchase in store at *The School Locker*, North Lakes store, 4 – 6 Burke Crescent, North Lakes, 4503 QLD, [trading hours are listed on their website](#). Online ordering is available through *The School Locker* website: www.theschoollocker.com.au.

Second Hand Uniforms

To assist those who would like to sell, buy and exchange second hand uniforms, families are invited to use the [PoP Second Hand Uniform Buy and Sell Facebook Group](#). This [FAQ page](#) answers all the common questions about how to buy and sell within the Facebook Group.

Jewellery and Makeup

Only the following jewellery is permitted to be worn:

- One set of earrings: either small plain round sleepers or small studs, no other piercings are permitted.
- One necklace on a simple chain with a cross
- No make-up and no fake eyelashes are to be worn whilst wearing the College uniform
- Only clear nail polish is permitted on fingernails whilst wearing the College uniform. Fake nails are not permitted.

Hair

Students are to have conservative hair styles and be neatly groomed at all times. Hair is to be of a natural colour with no obvious colour contrasts. Hair should be styled so the College hat can be worn correctly.

Shoulder-length hair will have to be tied up when in uniform with a band of similar colour to the student's hair. A simple ribbon of white, navy or royal blue may also be worn. Crew cuts shorter than a No. 3, undercuts, long fringes, rat's tails, beards and moustaches are not permitted.

College Mobile App

The Prince of Peace College app is a great tool for you to receive real-time alerts and notices. The app is utilised for time-critical information, such as when buses are delayed when returning from excursions, when sport or events need to be cancelled or moved due to bad weather, or when we want to remind you about significant upcoming events. All College families are encouraged to download the app to their smart phones and devices and opt to receive notifications.

You can check the College calendar, access the fortnightly newsletter, look up key contacts and access a range of helpful links via the app. You can notify the College of student absences quickly and easily, or link to our Facebook page.

[How to download the College mobile app »](#)

Information Technology

Through the use of information and communication technology (ICT) tools, we ensure our students engage in purposeful learning and have the knowledge, attributes and abilities to be global citizens of character. Prince of Peace has developed a Prep to Year 12 Digital Strategy.

Our goals are to:

- ensure that the learner remains at the centre of teaching
- personalise the teaching and learning process
- provide opportunities for anywhere, anytime learning

The intent is to develop a culture in which students feel masterful and purposeful in utilising ICT resources as an integral part of learning. Information technology is actively used in teaching and learning processes across the College, utilising devices including iPads, laptops, interactive whiteboards and computer labs to meet student needs. The use of technology to enhance our curriculum is continually under review to reflect the rapidly changing technological world in which we live. At the same time, our modern architecture and up-to-date wireless networks support the flexible use of devices in indoor and outdoor learning spaces.

We have implemented a [BYOD Laptop Program](#) as part of our Digital Learning Strategy.

Cyber Safety

Access to Internet sites and email is for educational purposes only. Students are to be considerate of others and to conduct themselves in a responsible, ethical and polite manner. Students are to respect their privacy and the privacy of others and are not to share personal information on the Internet.

Access to computers and the Internet is only given to students who agree to act in a responsible, considerate and appropriate manner. Failure to follow the computer use guidelines may result in losing access or in disciplinary action. All network and Internet activity is logged and is available for viewing by any staff member of the College.

It is unacceptable for students to:

- take photos and/or distribute photos of other students without consent.
- download, distribute or publish offensive messages, pictures or movies.
- use obscene or abusive language to harass, insult or attack others.
- give away personal information or contact details over the Internet.
- deliberately waste printing and Internet resources.
- damage computers, printers or the network equipment.
- use another person's account or password or trespass in their files, home drive or email.
- violate copyright laws, which includes plagiarism (pretending someone else's work is your own) and downloading music.
- use any online email service other than College email or Teams Chat.
- install programs of any sort – including .bat files.
- change file permissions.
- use the network for commercial purposes.