SevenUp Handbook

Year 7 Step Up to Secondary 2015

Exploration of interests
Welcome to our SevenUP Program

As part of its Integrated Pathways Program, Citipointe Christian College introduces you to SevenUP. In 2008, Year 7 became part of the Middle Years of the Secondary School at Citipointe – SevenUP - YEAR 7 STEP UP TO MIDDLE SCHOOLING. In 2015, all Year 7 students around Queensland will join Secondary Schooling, as our students have for the past 6 years.

INTRODUCTION

The College’s SevenUP Program began in 2008, with the first cohort of Year 6 Primary students stepping up to Secondary School as Year 7 in that year. Since then, Years 7, 8 and 9 have formed the Middle Years, and Years 10, 11 and 12 comprise Senior Secondary. Educational research data informs us that students of the Year 7, 8 and 9 age groups have different needs from primary or senior secondary. Our structure is designed to cater more effectively for the specific differences and needs of the Middle School student.

The introduction of Year 7 into Secondary and into a Middle School program is designed to provide a transition year between Year 6 and Year 8. It is not intended that our Middle School is separate, and thus increase rather than decrease the transition points. Our Integrated Pathways Program aims to make schooling at our College as smooth and developmental as possible. The Middle Years Program is based on Middle Schooling principles, the documented needs of this age group, and researched educational strategies specifically utilised to make the transition from Year 6 to Year 8 more effortless and less stressful. Year 7 is the pathway to Secondary education at our College, creating a more seamless educational journey for our students in our plan to provide excellent P-12 learning at Citipointe Christian College.

SevenUP RATIONALE

- To achieve learning excellence within a Biblical worldview
- To increase educational outcomes by more effective preparation for secondary schooling
- To respond to specific needs of the adolescent middle school student, needs which are different from those of the senior secondary students
- To accommodate earlier entry points to secondary schooling
- To create a smoother transition to secondary schooling
- To prepare students more effectively for the differences between primary and secondary
- To provide engaging, stimulating educational experiences between Years 6 and 8

SevenUP OUTCOMES

- Students educated with balanced, well-grounded, well rounded curriculum
- Greater student thinking, independence and love of learning
- Improved school academic results and standards in literacy and numeracy
- Better prepared students for Year 8, strengthening necessary foundational skills
- More effective and individual catering for adolescent needs
SevenUP PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS

The SevenUP program is a fusion of Primary and Secondary, so that our Year 7 students recognize that they are moving into Secondary schooling. It focuses on the acquisition of skills, rather than subjects, with a broad curriculum across Learning Areas, aimed at ensuring that students have the skills needed to succeed in Year 8. The program is based on documented information regarding the development of the Year 7 age child [12-13 years], and on middle schooling principles.

Characteristics of middle school students

- Increased physical growth
- Need for physical activity
- Great diversity of physical development
- Peer group pre-eminent
- Same sex affiliation dominant
- Attachment to adults other than parents
- Desire for independence, but security in boundaries
- Great brain growth between ages of 10 and 12
- Intense curiosity, especially about 'big questions' of life
- Preference for active over passive learning
- Preference for cooperative over individual learning
- Rapid change in interests
- Need for greater choice of activities
- Development of ability to analyse and reflect

In SevenUP, Year 7 students will

- be prepared for their Middle Secondary schooling
- learn foundational skills essential for secondary schooling
- study the art of thinking
- engage in secondary subjects
- be taught by secondary subject specialists
- explore the potential of their age under middle schooling principles
- be monitored and mentored by a specialist Year 7 Teaching Team

However, Year 7 students will still

- enjoy middle school trained home room teachers
- be nurtured by middle school trained pastoral care teachers
- be taught the core subjects of Maths and English by home room teachers
- continue to focus on the basics of literacy and numeracy
- experience home rooms and home room lockers
- be largely in the company of the other Year 7 students

As well, Year 7 students will

- have access to dedicated Year 7 classrooms and computer pods
- be extended and assisted by specialist Learning Enrichment staff
- still participate in Primary sport
- be able to participate in Secondary sporting carnivals
SevenUP PROGRAM – BIG PICTURE OBJECTIVES

Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, in favour with God and man. Luke 2:52

The SevenUP Program is designed to educate important aspects of the growing middle years child: physical, intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual. The program is based on documented information regarding the development of the Year 7 age child [12-13 years], and on middle schooling principles.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- **SevenUP** students will have two lessons of compulsory Physical Education per week, to cater for their high need for physical activity and to ensure that they are receiving education on care and health of their bodies.
- **SevenUP** students will also participate in Primary Sport on Friday afternoon.
- **SevenUP** students have access to dedicated play and shaded areas.
- **SevenUP** students work in refurbished, airconditioned classrooms.

INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT

- **SevenUP** students study a core course of Christian Living, Physical Education, English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, with emphasis on Literacy and Numeracy skills.
- **SevenUP** students engage in Secondary Key Learning Areas of Arts, Technology, and Languages, being taught by a team of Secondary subject specialists.
- **SevenUP** students learn study skills and strategies for their success in secondary studies.
- **SevenUP** students are involved in an innovative thinking course where they will explore thinking about thinking, and investigate how to think laterally, creatively, logically, sequentially and critically.

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **SevenUP** students enjoy a dedicated area where other Year 7s congregate.
- **SevenUP** students are accommodated in home rooms for most of their lessons.
- **SevenUP** students are buddied with and mentored by Senior students.
- **SevenUP** students engage in Year 7 group activities both in class and out of class.
- **SevenUP** students have access to specialist support staff including the College Counsellor, Pastoral Care staff, Teaching and Learning Staff, Learning Enrichment Teachers, and ESL teacher.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

- **SevenUP** students have two lessons of Christian Studies, including a Year 7 Chapel weekly.
- **SevenUP** students are nurtured by Middle School trained Christian Pastoral Care teachers.
- **SevenUP** students are closely monitored by Secondary Christian Pastoral Care teachers.
- **SevenUP** students, like all other students, are prayed for each morning by the staff at the Staff Prayer Meeting.
SevenUP AFFECTIVE DOMAIN DETAILS

SevenUP Personnel

- SevenUP Home room teachers
- Team of secondary specialists

SevenUP Accommodation

- Dedicated area – K Block
- Home rooms – in K Block
- Lockers in dedicated Year 7 area – K Block
- Computer resources just for SevenUP
- Airconditioned, refurbished classrooms with up to date technology

SevenUP Care

- Year 7 Head of Year
- Pastoral Care [Home Room] teachers
- Mentoring from older students
- Staff Training in Middle Schooling
- Parent Information
- Parent Evenings
- Parent Support Group
- Christian teachers
SevenUP ACADEMIC DOMAIN DETAILS

They pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved. Matt 9:17

Following guidelines and requirements of the Australian Curriculum implemented in 2012, work program emphases will remain on Literacy and Numeracy, with concentrated time given to English, Maths, Science and History. Students will also study subjects within the Learning Areas of Geography, Arts, Technology and Languages Education.

Within these Secondary Learning Areas, students will continue to build on a range of foundational skills:

THINKING & LEARNING
- Habits of Mind; study skills; learning styles; thinking strategies; lateral thinking

READING & RESEARCH
- Computer skills; summarising; speed reading; note taking; analytical thinking skills

SPEAKING & WRITING
- Literacy; creative thinking and writing; oral skills

LOGIC
- Numeracy; sequential thinking

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
- Problem solving; Use of Technology

CULTURE & ARTS
- Languages; Arts appreciation; creative and inclusive thinking

PHILOSOPHY & VALUES
- Critical thinking; Biblical worldview

SevenUP Academics

- Special program for Thinking Skills
- Primary Sports Program continued on Friday
- Integration with Secondary sports at carnivals
- Small classes
- Extension for able students
- Streamed and/or gender specific classes according to cohort
- Assistance for students with difficulties
- Hire textbook program

SevenUP Timetable allocation

The SevenUP program will consist of four periods per day, with a smaller concentration of staff than in Year 8, but larger than in Year 6. This will allow Year 7 to engage in extended tasks covering the skills outlined and combining core subject content. Subjects studied:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORE SUBJECTS</th>
<th>SECONDARY LEARNING AREAS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christian Living / Chapel</td>
<td>Languages Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Arts</td>
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<td>Maths</td>
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<td>Physical Education</td>
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SevenUP COHORT PROGRESS FROM YEAR 7

MIDDLE SCHOOLING

Year 7
Students will study a set course of Core Subjects and selected Secondary Learning Areas. At the end of Year 7, students will be able to choose options from within a core course of learning areas for Year 8.

Year 8
Students will continue to study the core course of compulsory subjects of English, Maths, Science, History, Geography and Physical Education. They will also study the Learning Areas of Arts, Languages, Business, and Technology. The program will display the following characteristics:

- Some gender specific classes in pastoral care and core subjects
- Extension program for high achievers
- Learning support for Special Needs and ESL students
- ISOP – international study and ministry enrichment program

At the end of Year 8, students choose 3 elective subjects for Year 9, for study for the year.

Year 9
Students will continue their study of compulsory subjects of English, Maths, Science, History and Geography, and choose electives from within the Learning Areas of Arts, Business, Languages Education, Physical Education and Technology. The program will display the following characteristics:

- Some gender specific classes in pastoral care and core subjects
- Preparation for Student Education and Training Plans
- Extension program for high achievers
- Boys mentoring program; girls personal development program
- Learning support for Special Needs and ESL students
- Leadership opportunities for Year 9 students – Middle School Council
- ISOP – International study and ministry enrichment program

SENIOR SECONDARY

Year 10
Students will study core subjects of English, Maths, Science, History and Geography, and electives from within the Learning Areas of Arts, Business, Languages Education, Physical Education and Technology. The curriculum for Year 10 will consist of a preparation course for the Senior Years of 11 and 12. At the end of Year 10, students will make the choice of six subjects for Years 11 and 12.

Year 11 & 12
Students will study six subjects and will be expected to keep six subjects for the two year course. Students are able to change subjects at the end of semesters. At present, Chinese is not offered in Years 11 and 12. The final two years of secondary schooling will continue as already organised, according to Australian Curriculum and Queensland Studies Authority requirements, with offerings in Vocational Education subjects and with encouragement for students to engage in first year university courses during Year 12, in order to prepare them for tertiary education and widen their Queensland Certificate of Education.