

Hume Middle Years Project

Getting Ready for Secondary School



Resource Guide

Introduction

This resource is one of the outcomes of the Hume Middle Years Project, which builds on work done in this area, helping Primary School students to make successful transitions to Secondary Schools, in Hume, in recent years.

Some of the differences between Primary School & Secondary School

- Secondary Schools are usually larger, and have more students
- Secondary School students usually store their belongings in a locker, instead of in their classroom
- Secondary Schools have different teachers for different subjects
- Secondary School students often travel independently to school, by bus or train
- There is more homework at Secondary School
- Secondary School students need to take more responsibility for themselves and their learning and be more organised than Primary School students, including getting homework done on time

Types of Secondary Schools

There are three main types of Secondary Schools: Public (also known as state or government), Catholic and Private (also known as independent). Public schools have the lowest fees (costs), and Private schools have the highest fees (costs). If fees (costs) are a problem for you, talk to your Public school about some help with this.

Information for Students

Starting Secondary School is the start of a whole, new chapter of your life. Whilst it might seem a bit scary, it is also exciting for most students. It's an opportunity to make new friends; learn about a wider variety of subjects; and get involved in some extra curricular (outside of school hours) activities, like clubs, etc... Fortunately, we also know from talking to Year 7 students in Hume, that starting Secondary School turned out better than many expected. It was easier to make friends and to get used to changes like going to different rooms for different classes, and using lockers, than many thought. So, talk to your family about what your options are and have fun exploring them. Also, most Secondary Schools have Transition and Orientation Programs, which will help you to settle in to your new Secondary School. This often starts with a visit or two to your new school when you are in Grade 6, and finishes with an Orientation Program to help you get to know the other new students and your way around your new school when you start Year 7. Good luck!

High School
is **AWESOME!**



Information for Parents

Ideally, start thinking and talking to your child, about which Secondary School they will go to, when they are in Grade 5. This will give you and your family time to find out which Secondary Schools are in your local area and what they are like, and most importantly, which one will best suit your child. Some ways to find information about your local Secondary Schools are to:

- Go to Open Days and participate in School Tours
- Read information about Secondary Schools on their websites
- Contact the school or schools directly and speak to staff over the phone, or make an appointment to speak to someone who can answer your questions if you have a lot
- Speak to local Secondary School students and their families about what their current experience is like (but remember that this varies from student to student!)
- If the academic performance of a school is particularly important to you, you could also access this information via the My School website – <https://www.myschool.edu.au/>



Timeline/ checklist for Parents

When your child is in Grade 5

February	Start thinking and talking about Secondary School options
Various dates	Contact the schools you are interested in, by phone, or via their website, to find out when their Open Days or School Tours are on, and go to them (sometimes you will need to book a place on a School Tour). This is especially important if you are considering a Catholic Secondary School for your child, as the enrolment date is earlier than for Public Secondary Schools.

When your child is in Grade 6

February	Continue thinking and talking about Secondary School options
Various dates	Contact the schools you are interested in, by phone, or via their website, to find out when their Open Days or School Tours are on, and go to them (sometimes you will need to book a place on a School Tour)
February	If you would like your child to go to a Catholic Secondary School, enrol them (as applications generally close in February)
April	Catholic Secondary School places are offered
May	Date for Catholic Secondary School places to be accepted If you would like your child to go to a Public Secondary School, enrol them. Your child's Primary School will help you with this process.

Timeline/ checklist for Parents

When your child is in Grade 6 - Continued

August

Public Secondary School places are offered

Term 4

Your child will participate in their Secondary School's Transition Program, if they have one, which may include a visit to their new school

Term 4

Order your child's school uniform through their new Secondary School, or buy it from the School's second hand shop, if they have one.

Order your child's books and devices (ipad or laptop) as directed by their new Secondary School. Schools usually post out information about this. Again, if fees (costs) are a problem for you, talk to your Public school about some help with this.

When your child starts Secondary School (Year 7)

Your child will participate in their Secondary School's Orientation Program, which most schools have, to help them to get used to their new school. It may include a *Buddy Program* where an older student assists your child to settle in.



Now that you are in Secondary School...

Tips for Students

- Check out your new Secondary School's website
- Print a map of your new Secondary school to help you find your way around
- Talk to any students you know who are already at your new Secondary School (but remember that their experience of school will be different to yours)
- Get a copy of your Timetable and use your Diary/ Planner to help you to organise yourself
- Get into a routine of doing some homework often
- Join some extra curricular clubs to help you to get to know the other students
- Have fun!

Tips for Families

- Provide your child with a quiet place to study/ do their homework
- Help your child to solve any problems sooner rather than later
There are people to help you with this, including your child's Year 7 Co-ordinator, School Nurse and/or School Psychologist
- Be supportive, encouraging and positive about this exciting new chapter of your child's life

More Resources – for Students & Families

- *In Transit* DVD - available from Hume Whittlesea Local Learning and Employment Network (HWLLEN). Includes the option of Arabic or Turkish subtitles.
- Parent Tip Sheets – available from Hume Whittlesea Local Learning and Employment Network (HWLLEN) website – www.hwllen.com.au
- *Victoria State Government: Education and Training* website – www.education.vic.gov.au Start by clicking on the 'School' tab. Then click on the 'For Students' tab, for information on things like Student Support, Moving from Primary to Secondary and Help with Homework. Click on the 'For Parents' tab for information including Moving from Primary to Secondary, Behaviour and Attendance, Child Health and Wellbeing, Teaching and Learning, Parent involvement, Costs and Financial Assistance and Support for Children with Special Needs

