

Middle School Questions and Answers

What are the main differences between primary (junior) school and Year 7 at Nambour Christian College?

- *Day structure:* our day is divided into lessons/periods. Students have a six-lesson day with a variety of core and elective subjects. Generally, students have two lessons before Morning Tea; two lessons before lunch; and two lessons to finish the day. Students will move to various classes around the school rather than stay in one classroom.
- *Teachers:* most subjects will be taught by a different teacher.
- *Student responsibility:* greater independence is given to students – different homework expectations with assessment completed at home and at school.
- *Relationships:* new connections are made; classes are not allocated via friendships.
- *Lockers:* belongings are kept in lockers during the school day.

How does the school help transition students into middle school?

We offer an extensive transition programme beginning in Year 5 that supports a student's ability to come into middle school with confidence. Some of these activities may include:

- Year 5 classes attend concerts in high school Lecture Theatre.
- Year 6 (Term 2) Dodge Ball competition against the Year 8 students.
- Year 11 students run lunchtime activities allowing students to grow familiar with the high school grounds (Terms 3 and 4).
- Year 6 students visit middle school classrooms, tuckshop and Lecture Theatre for three afternoons, viewing current middle school classes in session.
- Year 7 Family Group/Core teachers visit Year 6 classes (Terms 2 and 3), developing early connections between students and teachers.
- Year 6 students attend Year 9 graduation.

How will my student be supported in Year 7?

Every student in middle school is assigned a Family Group (FG) – co-educational (Year 7); house-based, gendered (Years 8 and 9). Three mornings per week, students spend 20 minutes in their FG; these mornings have a pastoral, student wellbeing focus with devotions presented and prayer support offered.

Our Year 7 Family Group teachers are very aware of the specific needs of Year 7 students who are new to middle school. Further, the Year Level Coordinator (Mrs Sami English sami.english@ncc.qld.edu.au) oversees the student body, running dedicated Year 7 Assemblies to support, nurture and encourage the students. Our Director of Student Wellbeing also provides additional support for students in the College. Year 7 promotes healthy social interactions and inclusion.

How will my student learn to organise him/herself and manage time in middle school?

Great question! All middle school students receive a Student Diary. The diary is required in every class. Teachers monitor and teach its use. Each week the diary is signed by parents and checked by Family Group teachers.

Family Group and classroom teachers, especially in Semester One, help with organisational matters.

Will the Year 7s have a different teacher for every class?

We identify Year 7 as the transition year between primary (junior) and high school. Generally, Year 7 Family Group teachers will also be one of the students' core teachers, reducing the number of teachers, and, therefore, reducing students' anxiety about too much change.

How can I contact my student's teachers?

- Student Diary can be used for handwritten communication.
- Call through to Mrs Ditchburn, Student Office, (5451 3333) and leave a message with her for the teacher.
- Email info@ncc.qld.edu.au with subject headline name of teacher and this will be forwarded to the correct person.

Are there any information sessions for parents?

- Middle School Information Evening: this takes place in October presented by Head/Deputy and middle school student leaders.
- Middle School Orientation Day: students and parents experience a morning in elective classes. This is held the final week of the school year.
- Meet the Year 7 Teacher For Dinner: where a light dinner is served in a relaxed setting followed by classroom sessions with Core teachers.