

Course Outline Year 8 Semester 2 2026

Arts

Course Description and Aims

The arts in the MYP seek to stimulate young imaginations, challenge perceptions and develop creative and analytical skills. Involvement in the arts encourages students to understand the arts in context and the cultural histories of artworks, thus supporting the development of an inquiring and empathetic world view. The arts challenge and enrich personal identity, and build awareness of the aesthetic in a real-world context. Through development of the imagination, students can become more empathetic and compassionate, they can enrich their cultural lives and discover new ways to contribute actively both to their own communities and to the world. The MYP values the processes of creating, performing and presenting artwork, and gives students opportunities to function as artists and to develop as learners. Students learn to use the arts to convey feelings, experiences and ideas about the world, and in doing so they acquire and develop techniques and creative skills. They learn the value of reflection and evaluation as a means of developing their ideas, their skills and their work.

MYP Assessment Criteria

Criterion A: Investigating

Through the study of art movements or genres and artworks/performances, students come to understand and appreciate the arts. They use their research skills to draw on a range of sources, and they develop information literacy skills to evaluate and select relevant information about the art movement or genre and artworks/performances.

Criterion B: Developing

Students develop ideas through practical exploration, which provides the opportunity for active participation in the art form. Practical exploration requires students to acquire and develop skills/techniques and to experiment with the art form. Students use both practical exploration and knowledge and understanding of art and artworks to purposefully inform artistic intentions and decisions.

Criterion C: Creating or performing

The students' command of skills and techniques is demonstrated through the creation or performance of a finalised artwork that is summatively assessed.

Criterion D: Evaluating

Through reflecting on their work and on themselves, students become more aware of their own artistic development and the role that the arts play in their lives and in the world.

Course Outline

In Years 7 and 8, students at Telopea Park engage in a dynamic and exploratory term-based rotation through a variety of Arts and Design electives. This structure provides students with broad exposure to creative disciplines, building foundational skills, creative confidence, and an understanding of the IB MYP approaches to learning (ATL) and global contexts. Each elective runs for one term, allowing students to experience eight distinct subjects over the two-year cycle — four from the Arts and four from Design.

Arts Disciplines:

Drama – Exploring performance, storytelling, character, and expression through scripted and devised works.

Performance in Movement – Combining physical expression, choreography, and non-verbal communication through creative movement.

Music – Developing skills in rhythm, melody, and composition while exploring diverse musical styles and instruments.

Visual 2D Art – Focus on drawing, painting, and composition.

Visual 3D Art – Exploration of sculpture, ceramics, and form-based design.

Media Arts – Developing visual storytelling through digital and analogue media, including photography, film, and editing.

This rotation model ensures that all students:

- Experience a broad, balanced arts and design education
- Identify personal interests and strengths for future subject selection in Years 9–10
- Develop transferable skills in creativity, collaboration, and innovation.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment Task	Due*
Performance/Artwork Production and Evaluation	Week 5 (term 3) or Week 15 (term 4)
Process Journal: Research and Investigation	Week 6 (term 3) or Week 16 (term 4)

**Due date subject to change at classroom teacher discretion.*

Approaches to Learning

Communication skills, Collaboration skills, Self-management skills, Research skills and Thinking skills.

Australian Curriculum Achievement Standard

The Achievement Standard for Year 8 Arts is based on the Australian Curriculum v9 The Arts <https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/>.