Ignite

IGNITE

Aims of the IGNITE program
IGNITE is the name of our gifted and talented program. We aspire to ignite a passion for learning. To this end, we have designed an exciting and unique curriculum for our academically gifted students. Each IGNITE unit is made up of a variety of opportunities for creative, high-order, lateral-thinking and problem-solving activities, where each student has the flexibility to develop her particular strengths. These exciting courses provide opportunities in the areas of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and creative arts. All units challenge students beyond their comfort zone in a supportive environment.

Year 5
Students participate in the course from Terms 2 - 4. They are withdrawn for two periods a week from a core subject.

Year 6
Students participate in the course from Terms 1 - 4. They are withdrawn for two periods a week from a core subject.

Year 7
Students participate in the course from Terms 1 - 4. They are withdrawn for one period a week from a core class and will be expected to attend IGNITE at either a before-school or after-school session.

Year 8
IGNITE is offered as a semester-based elective. Students participate in the program for five periods a cycle. Students may choose to participate in one or both semesters.

Assessment structure
Each course requires the student to complete a project based on the theme of the unit. Projects are given teacher and peer feedback. This course is not graded.

Student selection processes in Years 5 - 7
An application process is required to enter the IGNITE program. Selection will be based on the written application, school-based testing, NAPLAN results and teacher recommendations.

For those wishing to participate in the Year 8 IGNITE elective
Students who completed IGNITE in Year 7 are automatically invited into the Year 8 program.

For those who have not participated in IGNITE in Year 7 but who have been identified as students who could benefit from this program, an invitation asking students to participate will be sent home.

Year 5 course description

Term 1: Selection Process

Selection process takes place. Parents and students will be informed of the success of their application by the end of Term 1.

Term 2: Brain Teasers and Synapse Snappers

An introduction to the IGNITE program where students will participate in a number of problem-solving and creative-thinking activities. This is a fun and engaging course that encourages students to think outside the box and take risks.

Terms 3 and 4: Night of the Notables

For students to understand their own potential, it is important to understand the terms that are often linked to potential, such as giftedness, talent, intelligence and creativity. One way to do this is to study the life of an eminent person and how they used their own giftedness, talent, intelligence and creativity.

In this program, students will research the life of an eminent woman using and creating a range of resources about their 'notable'. To fully appreciate the impact these women had on our lives, students will step into their shoes and become them for the Night of the Notables.

Term 4: STEMtastic

In the remaining weeks of the year, we'll have some STEMtastic fun - creating, building and preparing for Christmas.

Year 6 course description

Term 1: King's Court

Students begin the term with a study of the courts of Ancient Egypt and Medieval Europe. They research the grandeur of the palaces and the social and political roles that people played within them. Using this as a basis, they create their own King's Court with a diorama and play. Imaginations run wild – where will their Courts be set? In the land of the fairies? Under the ocean? In the kitchen? It is always exciting to see where their imagination takes them.

Term 2: Rube Goldberg

Rube Goldberg spent 55 years drawing cartoons of machines and contraptions. His cartoons depicted simple household items, connected in funny but logical ways to perform a simple task.

Rube Goldberg believed that most people preferred doing things the hard way instead of using a more direct and straightforward path to accomplish a goal. In the words of the inventor, the machines were a "symbol of man's capacity for exerting maximum effort to achieve minimal results". His drawings became so well known that the Webster's Dictionary defined the term Rube Goldberg as "accomplishing by extremely complex, roundabout means what seemingly could be done simply". Inspired by cartoonist Rube Goldberg, students design a machine that uses a complex process to complete a simple task.

Term 3: Communicating in the 21st Century

Podcasting has emerged as one of the most popular media of communication in the last decade – but why has it become so popular? Podcasts perform a number of functions: they educate, they entertain, they inform, they inspire, they make people laugh, and they make people cry. Most importantly, podcasts connect.

In this unit, students will be invited to work in groups to create a podcast based on a theme of their choosing. They will tell stories from Santa Maria, national and international communities, and they will learn the art of producing a podcast.

Term 4: Robotics

From exploring the volcanoes on Mars to vacuuming our floors, robots are part of life in the 21st century. In this unit of study, students investigate the world of robotics, build their own robots and program them to complete tasks. An exciting and innovative program, Robotics truly integrates STEM and the creative arts.

Year 7 Course Description

Term 1: Selection Process

Selection process takes place. Parents and students will be informed of the success of their application by the end of Term 1.

Term 2: Brain Teasers and Synapse Snappers

An introduction to the IGNITE program where students will participate in a number of problem-solving and creative thinking activities. This is a fun and engaging course that encourages students to think outside the box and take risks.

Term 3: STEM Renaissance Style

A fun and creative way to study the important period of the Renaissance. We will research this important historical period through a study of 'Renaissance Men and Women' and their creations. Students will create a prototype of da Vinci's parachute man, create a crane and study their own modern-day Mona Lisa. In this class, students are urged to be thinkers not repeaters; creators and artists instead of manufacturers.

Term 4: Fantasy Fanatics

From Bilbo Baggins to Harry Potter, from Gandalf to Dumbledore – the world of fantasy fiction ignites the imagination of young and old alike. This unit plays to that high interest and allows students to analyse the genre of fantasy and use their research to create their own fantasy world.

Year 8 Course Description

Semester 1

Term 1: Robotics

From exploring the volcanoes on Mars to vacuuming our floors – robots are part of life in the 21st century. In this unit of study, students investigate the world of robotics, build their own robots and program them to complete tasks. An exciting and innovative program, Robotics truly integrates STEM and the creative arts.

Term 2: Neuroscience

The wondrous workings of the brain are discovered in this neuroscience unit. We begin by investigating the different parts and functions of the brain. Students continue this work by researching an area of the brain that interests them. Students present their findings to the class by creating an experiential lesson for their classmates.

Semester 2

Term 3: Silent Movies

The world of silent movies of both the past and present are explored in this engaging unit. We discover the stars of yesteryear and investigate their continuing impact on modern movie making. Once the students' imaginations are sparked, their task is to create their own silent movie.

Term 4: Passion Project

Always wanted to play the guitar or speak in Greek? In this course, students will have the opportunity to learn something new that they are passionate about. There are no limits to their areas of interest and students will plan their learning by setting realistic goals.

Students may choose to participate in one or both semesters of the program.

* Please note that all courses are subject to change.