

Kowhai Team 2024 Information Booklet



DAVID STREET SCHOOL
Kia Maia - Have Courage

Welcome to David Street Senior School 2024 Information Booklet

Inside this booklet you will find some key information that applies to your child as they enter the senior school for 2024.

Contents:

- Te Ao Marama - Our Learning Environment
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- Day 1 2023 - Expectations & routines
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Our Learning Environment

The Senior School continues to build on the vision of David Street School; 'A community of courageous learners.'

To achieve this, we have an increased focus on children taking ownership and responsibility for themselves and their learning.

When your child comes to the senior school, they will notice some differences. The immediate differences are;

- One teacher will be your child's PC (pastoral care) teacher. This means that they are directly responsible for your child and their welfare. This teacher is your first contact if you have any questions or concerns.
- Our two Ako groups are each made up of three PC groups. Your child will spend most of their learning time within their Ako group, where students are grouped accordingly for Literacy and Maths. They may have different teachers for these areas of learning, ensuring your child's learning needs can be catered for in a supportive environment.
- The classroom is bigger. This space supports great teaching and learning by allowing for students and teachers to have flexible space that can meet a variety of learning styles.
- Enhanced focus on the skills required to initiate, drive and manage their own learning.
- Using a wide variety of learning tools with a balanced needs based use of e-learning tools.

This learning environment builds on your child's skills, attitudes and learning in an authentic environment whilst being supported by a variety of teachers.

Other Opportunities

Throughout the year there are also many other opportunities to keep an eye out for. We encourage students to get involved as much as they can and begin to develop their independence.

Opportunities include:

- Year 6 Leadership Opportunities
 - Road Patrol, Library Monitors, Junior Athletics leaders
- Performing Arts and music lessons
- ICAS Tests
- Otago Problem Solving Maths Quizzes
- Sporting opportunities including
 - Cricket, Touch Rugby, Hockey, Basketball, Mudrun...
 - Gymnastics and group performances such as Aerobics, Hip Hop and Cheerleading
- Duties that develop independence and responsibility
- Kapa Haka
- Technology Challenges
- A variety of lunch clubs
- Camp
- Make it Monday - Hands on learning using the design and technology process to design, create and solve problems.

Plus many more

Children find information about these through the school's daily notices. Some of these require the students to opt in or go through a selection process.

Tools for Learning

We use a variety of tools to encourage a diverse range of thinking, enhanced questioning, knowledge building, reflection and creation.

Learner Qualities:

We want our students to be well rounded individuals who can take responsibility for themselves and their learning while positively contributing to our community. We also want them to know what to do when they are stuck.

So we teach our students to learn how to learn and the strategies that foster belief in their ability to make courageous choices in their learning and life.

Our Learner Assets support this belief. They are interconnected competencies that are developed over time shaped by themselves, teachers, parents and their peers.



Digital Tools for Learning

In the senior school, we use a range of tools from pen and paper to a variety of digital tools.

These primarily include;

- Google Applications for Education (GAPE)
- **Google Chromebooks**

These tools are used to add value to a child's learning, opening the doors to a world of creative and productive opportunity. They also form a basis for **teaching smart skills and attitudes needed** to be aware in a digital world.

As part of our learning programs, we have an increased focus on using tools that meet the needs/requirements of a chosen audience. The digital world facilitates this.

To achieve this, we offer the opportunity for our students to purchase their own Chromebook and use this in class, or to use traditional stationery supported by devices that are shared in class that the school provides (access can vary).



chromebook

Please note this environment is only open to Chromebooks.

For further explanation and FAQ's please see our school website www.davidst.school.nz

Purchasing a



chromebook

You need to make sure you are asking for a Chromebook.

It is not necessary to purchase one of the more expensive models however we do recommend that it has at least 4GB RAM and 32GB storage. However 16GB is sufficient.

We also encourage the purchasing of a protective case and headphones.

Brands we have used at school reliably include Acer, HP, Samsung, Lenovo or ASUS.

Stores that **Chromebooks** can be purchased through include:

- PB Tech - online through www.pbtech.co.nz BYOD store. This has educational pricing.
- Heathcote Appliances
- Noel Leeming

Just double check before purchasing that it does not have Microsoft Windows on it. If it does, then it is not a Chromebook.

Day One of 2024

Class lists will be sent home in the final week of 2023. This list will show who your child's Pastoral Care Teacher (PCT) is.

Your child's PCT is the teacher who is primarily responsible for the welfare of your child.

On the first day of school for 2024, all senior school students will need to come to Te Ao Marama to meet their PC teacher and other Ako teachers. There will be TV's inside the doors indicating where each PC Group is situated.

Device Agreement

Prior to your child using their own device, a Device Agreement must be discussed, understood, signed and returned to school. This ensures a clear understanding of the responsibilities of all concerned. *A copy of this will be sent home early in 2023.*

Connecting to the Network

Through the first week of school, all Chromebooks will be connected to the network. Your child just needs to bring their device and their teacher will help them with this.

Cyber Safety

Learning with a digital tool is a new experience for most children. Therefore, as part of our learning, we continue to teach and reinforce cyber smart behaviours. This means that when children demonstrate their responsibility and awareness of being cyber smart through their actions, they will be allowed increased digital responsibilities.

Stationery

Our learning is about choosing the right tool for the job. Sometimes the right tools are pen and paper. We use our books in a variety of ways, from planning our work to improving our handwriting. A stationery list for 2024 will be sent home in the final week of school in 2023 or can be found at the office.

Port Waikato Camp

We attend Port Waikato Camp every 2nd year, so the next camp will be in 2025. More information will come out towards the end of 2024.

