OUR VISION

A LEADING GIRLS SCHOOL FOR 124 YEARS

VISION
Melbourne Girls Grammar aspires to develop ethical women of action. Through a focus on learning, research and innovation we will be recognised by our own community, the national and international community as a leading school in girls’ education.

MISSION
In the pursuit of our vision, Melbourne Girls Grammar is committed to the provision of an exceptional education for girls, with an emphasis on strong Christian values, high expectations, creativity and academic challenge. Within a supportive and optimistic culture we provide opportunities for students to discover their passions and build their capacities for action and influence within their many life contexts.

VALUES
In support of our mission, Melbourne Girls Grammar values are:
- Integrity
- Compassion
- Courage
- Self-discipline

VISIT MELBOURNE GIRLS GRAMMAR

For further information or to request a tour of the Junior Years facilities, please contact the Melbourne Girls Grammar Enrolments Office on 03 9862 9200 or enrolments@mggs.vic.edu.au

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It is my pleasure to welcome you and your family to Morris Hall, the Junior Years campus at Melbourne Girls Grammar.

We are a community that embraces its diversity and seeks to offer rich and varied opportunities for all types of girls to pursue their passions and interests. Your daughter will be encouraged to develop the confidence, skills and experience to excel in life beyond school. Leadership, team building, social and cultural awareness, and a strong sense of personal self worth are crucial components of her education at MGGS.

We believe that girls thrive when they are engaged in a challenging academic program within a nurturing environment. Our students are further extended through a comprehensive co-curricular program. I strongly encourage your daughter to take up such opportunities for participation and to extend her peer relationships. With the gift of her education, you give your daughter an abundant field of opportunities and we look forward to guiding and supporting her on what will be a wonderful learning journey.

Catherine Misson
Principal
In the Junior Years we want to inspire our girls to be curious, to extend their interest in the world around them, and to confidently encounter new situations. Our girls are encouraged to embrace learning opportunities that stretch them to think, collaborate and create.

The Junior Years Program integrates academic learning with social development. Positive relationships and personal responsibility are the foundations for healthy human development. Our girls experience a sense of community anchored on shared values.

Learning begins with strong foundations in literacy and numeracy, but to develop the whole person this must be extended through diverse and rich curriculum. Specialist teachers provide creative and enriching learning experiences in Music, The Arts, Italian, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), Physical Education and Information Literacy. Outside, the girls explore, play, and imagine.
Within the leafy surrounds of South Yarra, our Morris Hall campus is home for our Prep – Year 4 girls.

The environment is architecturally designed to create a place of enchantment that promotes wonder, possibility and challenge for students of the 21st century. It is a beautiful and welcoming place for our girls and their families.

Extending the immediate experience at Morris Hall is the outstanding landscape of the city of Melbourne. Museums, galleries, parks, and theatres are within walking distance or a short tram ride. We believe that an education for life takes our girls exploring well beyond the learning studio.
LEARNING STUDIOS

Our learning studios are inspired by the commitment we have to make learning visible. Our flexible spaces enable our girls to collaborate and create, to extend what is possible in the flow of a day. Each of our studios promotes a sense of community and belonging.

Learning studios are designed to take advantage of natural light, provide comfortable gathering spaces, support personalised learning, and integrate a range of learning technologies.

Our girls share these beautiful, light-filled spaces with a team of teachers who are all dedicated to ensure that they have everything they need to be inspired to achieve amazing things. The environment at Morris Hall supports and promotes a deep respect for each other and for our environment.
At the heart of our Junior Years Program is a commitment to the development of the whole child. We respect and foster the diverse talents and interests of our girls.

Teachers and support staff are focused on providing personalised experiences of learning, and adjustments are made when girls require greater support or extension. We believe in listening to our girls, responding to their developmental needs, and assisting them to negotiate and navigate challenges, both academic and social. We start and finish with the girls in mind. Programs are designed for high engagement and for the stretch we know our girls aspire to achieve.

The wellbeing of our girls is a shared responsibility for all our staff, and teams work together to ensure that the social and emotional development of our girls is always a focus, both indoors and outdoors.

Within our outdoor zoned learning program, the girls can choose a range of spaces and experiences during times spent outside the Learning Studio. Our girls may choose to learn and play in the Kitchen Garden, climb and swing on the adventure playground, play soccer on the oval, relax on the Peaceful Patio or immerse themselves in dramatic play in our Imagination Zone. During these times the girls are supervised by a consistent team of educators who are outside with them every day, guiding and nurturing their development as they learn and play together.

Every girl belongs to a House and participates in activities that build community and develop an understanding of the importance of service as a responsible global citizen. Assemblies and Chapels are also opportunities for students to lead and collaborate, focused on themes that broaden our girls’ understanding of local and global cultures and contexts.

Our Year 4 Leadership Program focuses on developing our girls’ emerging understanding of leading with “her heart, her head and her hands”. We explore models of service and great women leaders who demonstrate our values, particularly courage and compassion. An exciting aspect of this program is the involvement of our Year 12 Student Leaders.
With a focus on the future, we established an Innovation and Creativity Centre within our Junior Years campus, a place in which inquiry learning through STEM ignites wonder and curiosity. Our girls are offered practical, hands-on experiences to provoke critical thinking and extend their investigation of the world they live and learn in. Guided by expert staff, our girls explore and imagine the seen and unseen worlds that make up the wonder of life on our planet.

Art, Music and Drama make life a wonderful sensory experience. We see expression and performance as enhancing the capacity of our girls to become fully flourishing young people. A diverse range of music ensembles, orchestra and individual tuition is available to engage and extend our developing musicians. The Art Studio supports art making through sculpture, painting, and mixed media, and incorporates Artists in Residence for innovative projects.

Extending the learning experience through online environments is a deliberate and carefully crafted aspect of our Junior Years Program. Personalised use of mobile devices gives our girls the scope to access information and to create products that supplement and enrich learning activities.

Our girls make use of a range of mobile devices to access information and to supplement and enrich learning activities.
At Morris Hall our curriculum demonstrates our holistic approach to education. Our students are provided with experiences designed to develop important learning dispositions. We want our girls to be creative, critical, committed, curious and cooperative learners. These dispositions sit at the centre of our program and are surrounded by all of the experiences our girls are offered.

**English**

The focus for our Junior Years English program is to create confident communicators, imaginative thinkers and informed learners. Our aim is to build strong foundational literacy skills that enable students to engage fully with all areas of the curriculum, and to make important conceptual links across their learning. Each student is encouraged to develop her knowledge, understanding and skills in listening, reading, viewing, speaking, writing and creating. High importance is placed on the development of comprehension skills, vocabulary and writing competence. Our girls are given multiple opportunities to learn to analyse, understand, communicate with and build relationships with others and the world around them.

Literature classes are an integral part of the English program at Morris Hall where a passion for reading is nurtured within each individual. We encourage our students to be joyful and voracious readers who engage with a variety of literature that extends beyond their direct experiences. Our well-equipped physical and digital libraries are available at all times for our girls’ reading pleasure, and are used daily for recreation, as well as weekly Information Literacy classes.

**Mathematics**

Mathematics is an integral part of our focus in the Junior Years. The individual needs of our girls are carefully planned and catered for within our flexible learning spaces. An emphasis is placed on encouraging our students to develop a deep understanding of mathematics and to relate mathematics to other subject areas. Our program includes number sense, place value, automatic response concept learning,
developing and maintaining skills and learning to apply skills and understanding in a variety of real life contexts.

Students are provided with opportunities for mathematical exploration and problem solving, learning in a variety of groupings and settings, guided by an experienced team of teachers and peers. Digital technologies are also used as tools for continuing mathematical explorations and inventions, and are integrated through blended learning and online critical thinking programs.

**Cross Curricular Studies**

We recognise that a contemporary curriculum framework must be responsive to the needs of contemporary girls. Our Units of Inquiry are taught through eight overarching themes, and are designed to be delivered over a two-year cycle. The themes – Necessity, Community, Identity, Social Justice, Creativity, Sustainability, Curiosity and Change – focus girls’ learning at a conceptual level to promote greater depth of understanding.

The program has been developed to explore issues of both local and global significance, and offer the girls rich opportunities to delve into the commonalities of the human experience.

**Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics**

Great value is placed on the importance of a strong foundation in STEM disciplines in the Junior Years. Our aim is to nurture our students’ curiosity, exploration and imagination in and across these areas. Research tells us that an enhanced and integrated understanding of STEM disciplines will help our girls to be the entrepreneurs and innovators of the future, actively contributing to the society in which they will live. Our expert teachers work across Prep – Year 4 providing the girls with learning experiences that incorporate a range of technologies, from telescopes and coding applications, to planting and harvesting in our sustainable gardens. Our students experience the joy of discovery and nurture their natural curiosity about the world around them. Each girl spends time in the Innovation and Creativity Centre every week, involved in research and discovery for their Units of Inquiry. All girls undertake a specialised coding program where they are exposed to computational thinking and learn to utilise a range of engaging applications and robotic devices over the course of the Junior Years. Through such experiences, our girls have the opportunity to develop their logic, reasoning, and troubleshooting skills as well as vital skills in the area of collaboration and communication.
Visual Arts

The Junior Years Visual Arts program includes exploration of a variety of domains and the appreciation of historical and contemporary art and art practise. Emphasis is on the ability to develop a creative concept from its inception, to practise through to completion of refined art. The process of creating and responding are interconnected with all artistic endeavours.

Students will develop and refine their creative aptitude through skill investigation, via explicit and sequential teaching across all domains. Exploration of techniques and ideas and persevering in problem solving will underpin all practical endeavours.

Multiple opportunities are given to our girls to learn to reflect and discuss their own artistic process, techniques and challenges.

Music

A holistic and inclusive approach is taken in Music at Morris Hall where each student is actively involved in composing, creating and performing. A music specialist works with girls from Prep to Year 4, focusing on a sequential aural-vocal program during classroom music. An instrumental program is offered to students in Years 2 and 3 and is part of their curriculum. Students may choose to study violin or cello. Individual students interested in undertaking instrumental lessons also have the opportunity to do so. Such endeavours serve to encourage self-reliance, time management and confidence within themselves.

Italian

The study of a language other than English has long been considered integral to the comprehensive curriculum offered at MGGS. Our program seeks to broaden students’ horizons by helping them to gain a socio-cultural awareness with a view to becoming global citizens and to meeting challenges of an interconnected society in a globalised world. At Morris Hall, an innovative approach supported by music, drama and literature is utilised when our students study Italian. Through their learning experiences, we extend our girls’ capabilities to communicate and extend their literacy repertories and to strengthen their understanding of the language, culture and process of communication. Girls are given opportunities to develop their intercultural capability and develop their understanding of diversity and difference.

Physical Performance and Health

PPH in the Junior Years provides opportunities for students to develop the fundamental motor skills and patterns that will prepare them for the cooperative and competitive environments they will come to experience.

MGGS supports a development program in swimming and athletics throughout the Junior Years. Our approach encourages all girls to perform to a high level regardless of the phase of the developmental cycle they are personally experiencing. The use of music to understand rhythm and movement is not limited to dance, but extends from the formal elements of dance expression to games and sport.

By placing the learner at the centre of all programs, and nurturing an understanding of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, MGGS encourages lifelong enjoyment of the physical world.

eLearning

Technology pervades all levels of education at Melbourne Girls Grammar. Laptops, desktops, tablets and other digital devices are embedded in everything we do, through our curriculum, in the design of our learning spaces, computer access and the software and hardware available.

Whilst we are dedicated to ensuring that our students have access to the latest technology, we are also steadfast in our commitment to ensuring that online learning happens in developmentally appropriate and purposeful ways. We ensure our program offers a safe, inclusive space where students gain courage to take risks and try new things.

Our Junior Years spaces are designed for the seamless integration of technology, with e-boards, technology rich break out spaces and specialist teaching areas and access that ensures our girls are able to use technology independently to support their learning experiences.

Our students have 1:1 access to devices from Prep though to Year 4 which ranges from iPads, desktop computers and notebooks. Our technology program focuses on providing students with relevant 21st century skills including creativity, cooperation, critical thinking, curiosity and commitment.

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When a girl can explore her interests, develop her passions, and discover her talent she becomes fully engaged in the life of her community. We provide a broad co-curricular program that reflects who our girls are and what interests and challenges them.

Swimming, athletics and a range of team sports are available throughout the year. Open and auditioned choral and instrumental programs provide experiences for the full range of abilities and experience.

Our girls are encouraged to sign up for our co-curricular clubs, each one designed to engage and inspire them. These clubs may take place before or after school, or at lunch times. We offer STEM clubs, Art Clubs, Mindfulness groups, Coding and Robotics Clubs and Day Camps, Book Clubs and more. Along with our experiential camps, the girls are offered a rich suite of co-curricular opportunities.
The need to belong is something we all have in common. At MGGS we believe one’s sense of belonging emerges from the connections we make.

In his book, *The Art of Belonging*, social researcher and author Hugh Mackay describes a ‘good life’ as one lived at the heart of a thriving community, among people we trust and within an environment of mutual respect. At Morris Hall we strive to create a community calendar and schedule of events that enables connections between families and the School to flourish.

Our Parents Association works closely with the School to encourage interaction and connection. Families are invited to actively participate in many and varied ways, from community breakfasts to informal gatherings.

Social Media at MGGS
We have embraced social media as a valuable tool for communicating and connecting with our community

- Twitter | @MGGS_SouthYarra @MGGS_Sport @ MGGS_principal
- Facebook | Search “Melbourne Girls Grammar”
- Instagram | @MGGS_Community
- Google+ | +melbournegirlsgrammar/about
- Pinterest | www.pinterest.com/MGGrammar/
**MGGS LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM: LINKING THE COMMUNITY**

**eVI**

*eVI is a Learning Management System that was introduced in 2010 to support student learning in a way never seen before at Melbourne Girls Grammar.*

Students have access to their classroom resources online, from any internet connected device. eVI also means that every class now has access to use the latest Web 2.0 technologies safely within our network e.g. wikis, forums, live chat and live polls and a set of tools that encourage collaboration and communication.

For parents, eVI provides a portal allowing easy access to the School’s Synergetic system to book interviews, view ongoing assessment tasks, see current and archived reports and to pay School fees. All parents have access to a parent homepage for their daughter’s year level with specific information from the Year Level Coordinator and Head of 5/6 Studies, as well as access to the School newsletter, the calendar, daily bulletin and the parent directories.

For staff the powerful combination of eVI with Synergetic has allowed for online attendance records, online reporting, access to all their resources and School documentation, policies and databases from wherever they are connected to the internet. eVI also allows teachers to set their assessment tasks online so that they are able to track student submissions, enabling far more immediate feedback to students. The combination of the two systems provides the School with important data around student wellbeing, attendance, subject choices and timetabling.

**Apps**

There are two apps used within the school community to assist students, parents and staff:

- The eVI App available from both iTunes and Google Play for quick access to the calendar, schools news, timetable and due work notifications.

- The My Student Account App to assist with topping up the school canteen and print cards, also available on iTunes and Google Play.
Principal
Mrs Catherine Misson

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