



ACHIEVING SUCCESS IN YEARS 8 – 10

INTRODUCTION

Every student is expected to succeed. The school community of Peterborough High School has made a serious commitment to continuous improvement in student learning outcomes through our Partnerships and Site Improvement Plans.

OUR BELIEFS

Peterborough High School's junior school procedures are based on the following five core beliefs:

- We believe that the main purpose of school attendance is to gain a successful education, and that our school practices and student effort must be directed to this purpose.
- We believe that all students have a right and need for schooling beyond the years of compulsion, and that this schooling should offer a variety of career paths that are based on incorporating flexibility and adaptability into effective teaching and learning practices.
- We recognise that education is important for its own sake, but believe that for our senior students the structure and content of their formal studies should lead towards appropriate documentation, which includes the successful completion of the South Australian Certificate of Education (or 'SACE') and the Student Achievement Record (or 'SAR').
- Enrolment at school beyond the age of seventeen years is not compulsory, so we will assume that those who continue their SACE do so because they (and their caregivers) see value in and commit to ongoing education.
- We believe the junior years of schooling will be characterised by a sense of purpose and goal orientation, and a corresponding commitment to purposeful study, a respect for others, and a real desire to succeed.

What does this mean?

Put simply, **all students must aim to achieve in all of their studies.** Anything less should never be regarded as satisfactory or accepted.

How can we achieve this goal?

STUDENTS

Successful achievement depends upon:

1. Being punctual to school and to class, and starting and ending lessons in an orderly manner which does not interrupt effective learning and teaching.
2. Being courteous to others, and treating them and their property with respect. This also means listening carefully when another person is speaking, and carefully following the teacher's instructions. Following the Student Code of Conduct in relation to school rules including bullying and harassment.
3. Remaining focussed on the learning task.
4. Using class time effectively and working quietly and cooperatively.
5. Completing all set assignment work and homework punctually and to their best ability.
6. Keeping a diary in which all homework and assignment due dates are recorded, and which is signed by a parent every weekend. The diary becomes a permanent record for later references: all notes from parents/guardians to and from teachers, absence notes, all matters of a planned nature (e.g. dental appointments), request for interviews and points of concern.
7. Bringing to every lesson all equipment necessary to complete set tasks, including the diary.

8. Always seeking help from teachers.
9. It is the responsibility of the student to record their work in their diary, complete work on time, arrange for extensions if there is a valid reason deemed by the teacher and if it is possible and plan the use of their homework time, setting aside time for reading, revising and completing class work.

TEACHERS

Students and their caregivers can expect teachers to:

1. Tell students what they need to do to complete the unit.
2. Thoroughly prepare for their lessons, and expect the same from their students.
3. Vary their methods of instruction to stimulate student interest and achievement.
4. Get to know their students as individuals.
5. Consult with students on subject objectives, and negotiate their individual learning goals.
6. Show students that they care, by being available out of lesson time for extra help, and by setting high expectations for individual success.
7. Provide feedback to students about their learning.
8. Communicate with parents when there is an issue with performance.
9. Cooperate professionally with other staff, and work closely with the school's policies in such areas as homework and use of the diary.

PARENTS/CAREGIVERS

Parents/caregivers too, have a vital role to play in the success of their student children. Parents will help greatly by doing such things as:

1. Encouraging children to succeed at school, and expecting them to make something of their lives.
2. Chatting with their children in a friendly, non-judgemental way, about their school experiences, and encouraging a positive attitude towards school.
3. Encouraging their children to understand that we are all ultimately responsible for our own success, and that blaming others eventually leads to failure.
4. Encouraging reading in the home.
5. Checking the diary and carefully reading the school's newsletter (also online at www.phs.sa.edu.au).
6. Checking that homework and revision are done when set, away from TV and other distractions.
7. Maintaining close communication with teachers through parent-teacher interviews, phone and diary messages, and personal appointments.
8. Supporting the school's parent organisations by attending school functions and evenings.
9. Encouraging their children to seek assistance from their teachers when they don't understand aspects of their learning.

THE PRINCIPAL

The Principal will provide leadership, resources and support for this policy through:

1. Committing the school's staff training and development and performance management resources to improve staff skills.
2. Actively promoting the Junior Secondary School Certificate which will be presented to those Year 10 students who satisfactorily complete their Junior Secondary school studies. This certificate is based upon a points system.
3. Monitoring attendance and punctuality across the school with the express purpose of improving overall student achievement.
4. Monitoring student results across each year level, especially at the end of semester, with the express purpose of improving overall student achievement across years 8 – 10.

UNSATISFACTORY PROGRESS

1. When a subject teacher perceives that a student's progress is becoming unsatisfactory a letter will be sent home specifying work outstanding and factors contributing to the situation. Parents/caregivers will be invited to attend an interview.
2. Where concern is widespread, the year level co-ordinator will instigate one or more of the following:
 - Academic check from all teachers.
 - Daily lesson check.
 - Interview with parents/caregivers.
3. Students who are post-compulsory can be suspended for "persistent and wilful inattention or indifference to school work".

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Name

I have read and understood the Peterborough High School's "Achieving Success" policy.

Signature of Student

Signature of Parent/Caregiver

Please return signed slip to home group teacher. Thank you

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