

SANDERSON

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Student Handbook



RESPECT COMPASSION FAIR GO INTEGRITY

Excellence in Learning

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WELCOME TO SANDERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Sanderson Middle School takes pride in offering a student focused Middle Years program that aims to develop the whole child and best prepare students for their senior years of schooling. Our experienced and dedicated staff design programs tailored to meet the needs of students and engage them to continually extend their academic growth.

We are a school community based on the core values of **Respect, Compassion, Fair Go** and **Integrity**. Our values are embedded in all aspects of school life. Trained in trauma informed practice, our staff strive to ensure students are taught the social and emotional skills necessary to understand and regulate their emotions, while developing the empathy to be considerate of others. All students deserve the best from us, and we are passionate about helping them to develop socially, emotionally and academically.

As a school community, we aim to build strong relationships with parents/ carers and the surrounding community. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are supported on site by the Clontarf Academy and the Stars Foundation. The Smith Family have a partnership with our school, and we are always looking to build partnerships to best support our students.

The Sanderson Middle School team of educators works diligently to maintain a safe, positive and happy environment for our students to thrive in.

We are all looking forward to a *Sandsational* year ahead.

Mr Robert McIntosh
Principal

OUR SCHOOL MISSION

At Sanderson Middle School, we provide an excellent education in a safe and supportive environment. We encourage our students to be fully prepared to deal with contemporary challenges, while guiding them to act with **Respect, Compassion** and **Integrity** and to always give everyone a **Fair Go**. We ensure that students participate in engaging and authentic learning programs by offering a comprehensive curriculum to meet the needs of every student. Our emphasis is on making sure that what the students are learning is interesting, relevant and achievable with a strong focus on literacy and numeracy.

AIMS

- To provide students with a sense of self-worth and a willingness to accept responsibility for their own actions
- To help students recognise their own strengths and to provide experiences that enhance and develop these qualities
- To develop within students a concern for, and understanding of others and a respect for individual differences
- To provide and maintain an attractive, safe and caring learning environment



SCHOOL VALUES

We encourage students to uphold our four core values to help them develop their skills for a successful future:

RESPECT

Treating others with consideration; acknowledging another person's point of view

INTEGRITY

The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles

COMPASSION

Caring for self and others; a strong feeling of understanding another person

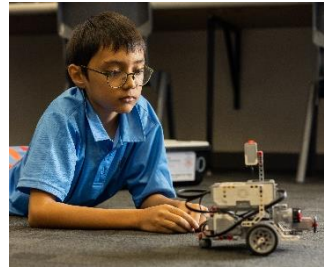
FAIR GO

Ensuring that all people are treated equally; accepting diversity



OUR PROGRAMS

The Sanderson Middle School curriculum is based on the *Australian Curriculum* learning areas of English, Maths, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, Health and Physical Education, and a wide range of Arts, Technologies and Languages electives and experiences that cater for individual interests and abilities. Our curriculum provides direct pathways to Casuarina Senior College and Darwin High School Centres of Excellence, SEDA and VET programs.



High achieving students can apply at the end of primary school for the **Leading Learner Program** and if accepted, will continue in the program throughout years 7, 8 and 9.

All students access meaningful and relevant learning opportunities through a range of **program options, elective choices, work experience and extended units of study** complemented by **excursions, incursions and camps**.

Year 9 students are offered a range of **leadership opportunities, Vocational Education Training, an Integrated Work Studies** program, an **Enterprise Project** and a **careers and transition program** that prepares them for the change to senior schooling.

The **Engage Program** caters to the learning needs of years 7, 8 & 9 students who have not yet cracked the 'code of reading'. Students access *Fresh Start* modules to engage them and accelerate their learning of English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D).

The Sanderson Middle School **Intensive English Unit** (MIEU) caters to the learning needs of middle school aged students for whom English is an additional language or dialect (EAL/D) and who come from overseas where Standard Australian English is not widely used.

Please contact the school on **(08) 7923 0500** for more information about Sanderson Middle School Programs.

ELECTIVES

At Sanderson Middle School, students engage in a rigorous student-centred curriculum based on the *Australia Curriculum*, choosing from the range of learning areas offered as electives:

- **Dance**
- **Design and Technology**
- **Digital Technology**
- **Duke of Edinburgh Awards**
- **Enterprise**
- **Food Technology**
- **Indigenous Languages and Cultures**
- **Japanese Language**
- **Music & School Band**
- **Outdoor Education**
- **Sports Academy**
- **Visual Arts**



VOCATIONAL EDUCATION TRAINING (VET)

Year 9 students participate in on-site VET classes gaining a Certificate I in:

- **Construction**
- **Engineering**
- **Retail**
- **Workplace Skills**
- **Automotive**



PASTORAL CARE GROUP

The Pastoral Care Group program is an integral part of the Sanderson Middle School organisation. The PCG teacher is the first contact person for carers/parents and students and a focal point for student wellbeing. PCG Teachers and their students are supported by Year Level Coordinators, the School Counsellor, the Special Education Needs Team and other members of the multidisciplinary Wellbeing Team.



UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to wear their Sanderson Middle School shirt with trousers, shorts or skirts that are longer than fingertips when your arms hang by your sides. Full enclosed shoes must also be worn when attending school. Sandals, thongs and slides are **NOT** acceptable. Compulsory uniform is the policy of the Department of Education. If students are not following the dress requirements, they will be asked to go home and change.

Because our school is a working environment, clothing must conform to community workplace standards. In some areas of the school, special safety requirements apply.

Sanderson Middle School endorses the SunSmart Policy and recommends students wear a hat and sunscreen for protection when outdoors.



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

FIRST DAY

On the first day of the school year, there is an assembly in the GPA to welcome students to the school and introduce them to their Pastoral Care Group (PCG) teacher and classmates.

BIKE / SKATEBOARD / SCOOTER STORAGE

Located at the main school entrance on Matthews Road (opposite Union Terrace) is a gated bike enclosure. Students who ride to school are required to bring their own personal lock to secure their bike. The bike enclosure is **locked at 8:05am** and **unlocked at 2:10pm**. Students on bikes who arrive late to school or need to leave before 2:10pm should go to front reception for assistance.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged belongings. Students may bring mobile phones to school as per the conditions of the **ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT SCHOOL OWNED and PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES**. It is expected that phones are placed in school bags during class and only used during recess and lunch. If a student has their phone out in class without teacher permission and does not comply with requests to put their phone away, they will be sent to the Responsible Thinking Centre (RTC) to hand it in. Laser pointers are banned as per the Department of Education policy.

BEHAVIOUR

Students who use mobile phones or technology to record images and sound without permission, engage in personal attacks, harass or bully another person before, during or after school will face major consequences. All students have the right and responsibility to attend school, to learn and to feel safe. Teachers have a right and a responsibility to teach. Behaviour that obstructs these rights and responsibilities is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary action.

To ensure student safety, tackling games are **NOT** permitted at Sanderson Middle School.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance at school matters. It is important to remember that being at school is where students learn, grow and build friendships. Students are expected to be at school every day. Any student with attendance below 85% will be followed up by the Attendance Team.

ABSENCES

Parents/carers are required to notify the school of any student absences by:

- Calling front reception on **(08) 7923 0500**
- Emailing sanderson.middle@education.nt.gov.au
- Using the *Compass School Manager* app
- Logging on to <https://www.sandersonmiddle.nt.edu.au/absentee>

If a student is absent for lesson 1 and 2 without prior notification, parents/carers will receive a text message advising them of the absence, giving them the opportunity to reply and provide a reason.

Please notify the school if students are going away on extended leave/holidays. Alternative learning arrangements can be provided.

Students who are sick for **THREE** or more consecutive days require a medical certificate (excluding Covid-19 related illness). Students with 20 consecutive days absence will be moved to the passive roll.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Students travel free of charge on all public buses in Darwin. They are expected to comply with the *Code of Conduct for School Bus Travel* by behaving appropriately and with consideration for fellow travellers.

MORNING SERVICE

Malak/Karama to Sanderson: Route 36

Palmerston to Sanderson: Route 63

AFTERNOON SERVICE

Sanderson to Palmerston Interchange: Route 30

Sanderson to Casuarina Interchange (via Karama): Route 33

Sanderson to Moil (via Malak/Karama): Route 223

Sanderson to Casuarina Interchange: Route 229

More information regarding public transport, as well as maps for each service, is available via the Northern Territory Government Website:

<https://nt.gov.au/driving/public-transport-cycling/public-school-buses/darwin-palmerston-directions-and-maps>

For all **IEU bus enquiries**, please contact the school on **(08) 7923 0500**

CANTEEN

Our school canteen operates daily during recess and lunch. The canteen aligns with the Department of Education *Canteen Nutrition and Healthy Eating Policy*.



STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC)

The SRC is a student leadership group consisting of students who are elected at the start of the school year.

The SRC represents the students' voices and members can attend the School Council to give their opinions on topics discussed. They also run activities such as school fundraising, special interest days and assemblies. Students are encouraged to approach members of the SRC with any ideas or suggestions they may have.



SCHOOL COUNCIL

Sanderson Middle School has an incorporated School Council that meets each month. Parents /carers are welcome to attend.



School Council meeting dates are advertised on Compass.

The School Council is an effective and supportive group with involvement in the overall management of the school, the curriculum and sporting facilities.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

SANDSATIONAL POINTS

Our *Sandsational* rewards recognise students who comply with classroom and school expectations - attendance, effort, achievement and behaviour. *Sandsational* points are allocated to deserving students by any member of staff.

Students with the highest level of *Sandsational* points are recognised each term at whole school assemblies, with exceptional achievers being invited to end of semester activities.



TERM AWARDS

Teachers nominate students from each learning area and year level to receive an award at whole school assemblies. These awards are:

ACADEMIC AWARD: Students who consistently show a high level of achievement in a learning area.

ENDEAVOUR AWARD: Students who consistently show significant improvement in a learning area and in behaviour.

ANNUAL AWARDS

At the annual presentation awards evening we recognise our students for their achievements and hard work and farewell our year 9 students.

COMPASS

Sanderson Middle School uses *Compass School Manager*, giving parents /carers the ability to access up-to-date information about our school and their child's progress.

Compass can be installed on all Apple and Android devices and can be accessed through a web browser.

By using Compass, parents/carers can:

- Add attendance notes
- Monitor homework and assessment tasks
- Track student attendance throughout the day
- View progress and semester reports
- Book Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Consent for school events
- View School news items

Please email admin at sanderson.middle@education.nt.gov.au if you need your login details or for any further information.



PARENT/CARER & TEACHER COMMUNICATION

Regular contact by phone, email or in person between parents/carers and the school is encouraged to discuss student progress throughout the year. Parent/Teacher Conference nights are held in Terms 1 and 3. Bookings are available on *Compass School Manager*. More information is sent out closer to Parent/Teacher Conference nights.

REPORTING & ASSESSMENT

Throughout middle school, students are expected to produce work that demonstrates evidence of achievement of the standards of the *Australian Curriculum*. Students also participate in ACER Academic testing once a year in Maths and Reading; NAPLAN (Years 7 & 9); and relevant standardised testing such as eWrite.

Progress reports are available on Compass prior to the Term 1 and 3 Parent/Teacher Conferences. Semester reports are available on Compass at the end of Semester 1 and 2. Semester reports will not be provided if a student's attendance is below 40%.

ASKING FOR HELP

All members of the Sanderson Middle School community have the right to enjoy a safe and comfortable learning environment. Students can ask for help from our many supportive staff members:

- PCG Teacher
- Year Level Coordinators & Senior Teachers
- Principal & Assistant Principals
- Classroom Teachers and Tutors
- School Counsellor
- Health Promoting School Nurse
- Special Education Needs staff
- Clontarf Academy
- Stars Foundation
- School Based Engagement Officer
- Aboriginal and Islander Education Worker (AIEW)
- School Based Police Officer

DAILY SCHEDULE

BELL TIMES	LESSON	DURATION
08.00 - 08.55	1	55
08.58 - 09.56	2	58
09.56 - 10.18	RECESS	25
10.21 - 10.48	PCG	27
10.51 - 11.46	3	55
11.49 - 12.47	4	58
12.47 - 01.09	LUNCH	25
01.12 - 02.10	5	58

MAP OF THE SCHOOL



Email: sanderson.middle@education.nt.gov.au

Phone: (08) 7923 0500