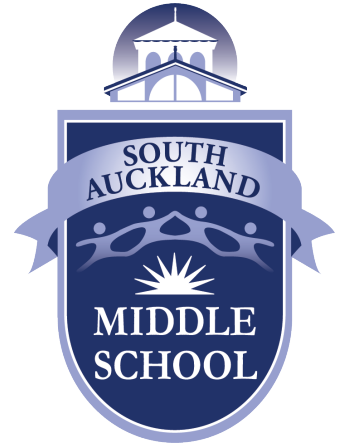


PROSPECTUS

South Auckland Middle School - Te Paerangi

Years 7—10



Pathway to Opportunity



VILLA EDUCATION TRUST
a model for the 21st century

Our Story



South Auckland Middle School (SAMS) - “Te Paerangi” is a small scale, co-educational middle school/junior college (Years 7-10) located on Mahia Road, Manurewa. It is one of three schools within the Villa Education Trust.

Our name “**Te Paerangi**” meaning ‘*steps to excellence*’ was gifted to us by our local Manurewa kaumatua, who were an integral part of our official opening in 2014

The Villa Education Trust model was created to suit students learning in the 21st Century and brings an ideal means of teaching and learning to the information age. The school has a maximum roll of 180 students.

The aims of South Auckland Middle School are:

- ◆ To provide the opportunity for outstanding learning for students in Years 7 to 10.
- ◆ To play a significant part in preparing students for full and effective participation in their future lives.
- ◆ To provide a learning environment that is thorough, innovative and able to be applied to the best advantage to each student through individualised education.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi

South Auckland Middle School recognises the value of and commitments to Te Tiriti o Waitangi as we prepare our students to become global citizens. We acknowledge the key concepts of partnership, participation, and protection. Te reo Māori and Te ao marama are strongly encouraged and supported as we affirm Aotearoa New Zealand’s unique identity.

Our Vision Statement is:

To allow young people to develop and learn, to give them a base for excellence in all spheres of life through effective teaching, quality facilities, an optimal day structure and an integrated curriculum.

About SAMS

South Auckland Middle School is designed to cater for the emergent adolescent age group and uses an integrated Project Based Curriculum.

The school reflects the 8 Essential Learning Areas (ELA's) as stated in the NZ curriculum overlaid by a clear Christian philosophy and Christian values. The team of expert educators is led by Principal Wendy Greig.

Parents have an integral part in school life and are kept informed of their child's progress. Staff know each child's educational needs and work hard to ensure they are met. The child's interest areas are affirmed, and they can significantly develop the capacity to direct their own learning.



SAMS aims to develop the individual talents of every one of its students. We take full advantage of the excellent learning resources in the community. Parents are invited to take an interest in all aspects of the school's programmes and are welcome to take part in both the morning and the afternoon programmes.

Please discuss any special areas of interest with a staff member.

Holistic Education and Support

We achieve holistic education through:

- ◆ Excellence in learning.
- ◆ Cooperation among students, families, and the community.
- ◆ Building of personal character through applied Christian values.
- ◆ A strong emphasis on thinking skills and students understanding how they think and learn.

Special features of South Auckland Middle School:

- ◆ A small school environment.
- ◆ A student:teacher ratio of no more than 15:1.
- ◆ An integrated Project Based Curriculum.
- ◆ A modified day structure to allow excellent learning outside of the classroom and the use of community resources.

Pathway to Opportunity



Our specially designed curriculum allows every South Auckland Middle School graduate to have:



the opportunity to develop their potential in a wide range of academic, physical, cultural, and social areas.



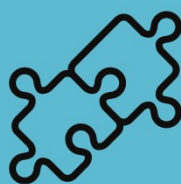
been in a stimulating learning environment including the best use of ICT skills and opportunities.



experienced the very best teaching, learning and thinking techniques.



studied in an environment underpinned by Christian values and philosophy that facilitates the child's development.



followed an integrated, project-based curriculum that encompasses the New Zealand Curriculum guidelines and expands on the Ministry of Education's essential skills framework.

Location and Facilities



South Auckland Middle School is situated at 198 Mahia Road, Manurewa. The building is an ideal facility for this type of school, with effective teaching spaces, and areas set aside for quiet, individual, and small group learning. There is ample 'green space' for morning tea and lunch breaks.

Students are separated into three Villas (Totara, Manuka and Rata), with a maximum of 60 students in each, overseen by an Academic Manager and core teaching staff.



We utilise the local area for our afternoon programme. Students use the nearby parks and facilities including libraries, museums, art galleries and local businesses. Through use of these resource and digital platforms, students can learn *in an environment without walls*.

Day and Class Structure

The timetable is designed to allow students to maximise their learning through several contexts and experiences.

The school morning programme is 8:30am to 12:50pm. Children work at their own level and with others of like ability. During this time, students are set a variety of tasks. Expectations of their input are high with little down-time.

A significant amount of work is taught to ensure that the NZ Curriculum is covered in full. This includes Mathematics, English, Science, Social Studies, and Technology. Students also have a significant amount of time to direct their own work as individuals and in groups. Research, thinking, and presenting skills are developed in-depth during their independent learning hour every day.

In the afternoons (1:30-3:00pm), year group classes rotate through various activities which can include: Kapa Haka, Art, Sport, Community Service and Community Learning, and Performing Arts.

Year 10 students are taught in a manner that prepares for their transition to a secondary school of their choice in Year 11.

Hauora Programme

Hauora is the concept we use to talk about our overall well-being. The central idea is that none of the dimensions of wellbeing—*taha tinana* (physical health), *taha wairua* (spiritual health), *taha whānau* (family health) and *taha hinengaro* (mental health) - is achieved by itself. Each dimension affects and is affected by the others in some way.

The 'whare tapa whā' model shows that for a house to be strong and stable and to stay upright, all its sides need to be balanced. With its strong foundations and four equal sides, the symbol of the wharenui illustrates the four dimensions of well-being. Should one of these four dimensions be missing or damaged in some way, a person (or a group of people) may become 'unbalanced' and subsequently unwell.

Hauora is a scheduled part of our weekly programme.

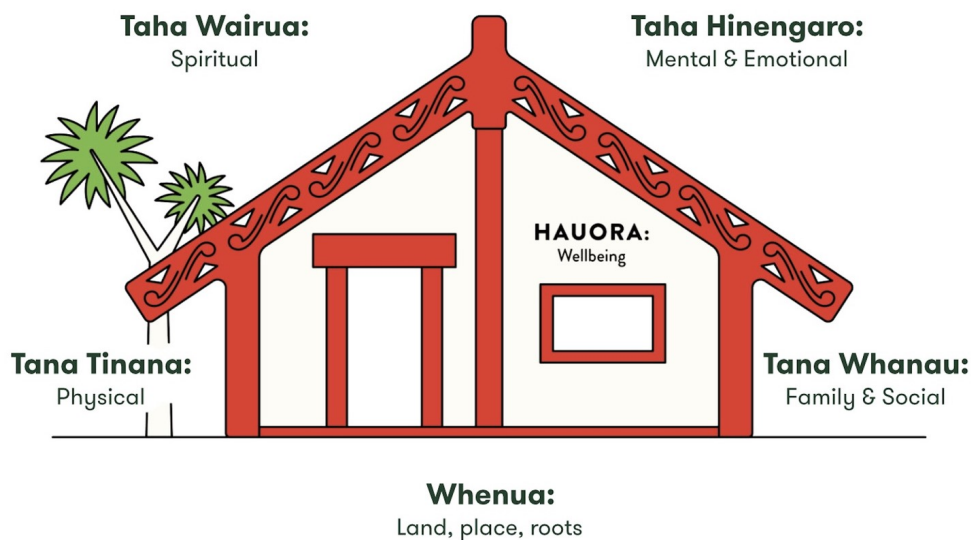


Image credit: Ella Sidey

Personal Development

The emerging adolescent years (age 10—15), are a crucial development period in the lives of young people. SAMS is a developmental, as well as a learning window. It provides an environment where children can have their personal, emotional, academic, physical, social, and spiritual needs met in a very supportive manner.

The aim of the middle school/junior college is to give students an opportunity to be children for a little longer; give them more time to explore their own interests and dreams. A large amount of energy and commitment is required from each student.

Students will develop personally and academically, improve their cooperative learning skills and love learning at SAMS and beyond.

Individual Student Care



Each child will have individualised care as they work through the school's curriculum. Our small class size of 15 students (one class of each year level in a Villa of 60 students), in-depth record keeping and communication with parents forms a crucial part of student care. Each child's range of abilities will be recognised and developed using the best learning theory and application available under the knowledge that intelligence is not a fixed entity, but able to be developed in each child.

Integrated and Project Based Curriculum

What is an Integrated Curriculum?

An integrated curriculum treats knowledge as seamless and interrelated. It is a means of breaking down the artificial barriers between subjects as they have been traditionally taught. It is also an effective way of broadening the possible topics that may be learned/investigated.

Within the school's written curriculum, the staff will ensure that all areas of the Essential Learning Areas (ELA's) are covered at the appropriate levels.

What is a Project-Based Curriculum?

A project-based curriculum treats the investigation of a topic as the basis for learning. Students complete eight projects during each school year. Within each topic, the staff identify the areas of the national curriculum that need to be overtly taught within the ELA's. Each year, the topics will encompass the full ELA requirements for that level.

Within each set project, all Learning Areas are included, and the students have the opportunity to direct their own learning and identify themselves in that learning.

Their learning skills (e.g. Goal setting, planning, investigative research, presentation, computing etc) are enhanced, as are their thinking skills (e.g. Understanding your own thinking, evaluation, synthesising information, etc).

Their basic academic skills (reading, writing, mathematics) are used as a building block for in-depth work.

Project List

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Architecture	The Human Circus	Flight and Space	Statistics
Great Books	Narrative Poetry	New Zealand Writing	Shakespeare
A Language & Culture	Language of Music or Movement	Māori or Pacific Island Language and Culture	Advanced Language & Culture
Plants	Human Beings	War	Reactions
An Artist or An Era	An Ancient Culture	Archaeology	Film or Director or Genre
Production & Inventions of the Past	Change through Technology	Production of the Present and Future	Business in Action
New Zealand: Places and People	The Oceans	A People or Country or Time	Law and Culture
Animals	Great Scientists	Sport	Machines

Culture and the Arts



Kapa Haka, Pacific culture, Music, Drama and Dance, are integral parts of our school culture and are celebrated in the afternoon programme. Students are encouraged to incorporate aspects of their own culture, and culture of others into their project based learning.

All students participate in Kapa Haka for one term with the opportunity to extend their knowledge and understanding in our after-school Kapa Haka group. Years 7 and 8 develop their knowledge of Drama in the afternoon programme. Years 9 and 10 broaden their Performing Arts knowledge through Music, Dance and Drama.

Term 3 at SAMS has a focus on language and culture culminating in our end of term Fiafia night where every student performs a Pacific dance on the evening.

Visual Arts includes the study of artists and their work in their cultural, historical and social context and gives students the opportunity to present their learning in varied and creative ways. This always involves practical Art projects where students explore a variety of art techniques including painting, printing, sculpting, photography, and ceramics.

Sport and the Great Outdoors

Under the guidance of our Sports Coordinator, Leigh Kenyon, development of sporting skills and good attitudes towards sports and physical activity is a key curriculum aim for the school. Part of our learning philosophy is that learning can happen anywhere and not just in the classroom. Each year group will have a total of 2 sport afternoons each week.

Community connection with our local recreation centres and coaches provides a varied sports programme.

We have opportunities to participate in sports events, challenges and outdoor pursuits. We offer camps for our Year 9 and 10 students in Term 4.

The school uniform is designed for outdoor use. A sports uniform is provided, but students will require sneakers and a hat and sunscreen for the hotter months.



Free Schooling

South Auckland Middle School provides outstanding education for students—FREE OF CHARGE. There are no hidden costs or extras.

Uniform	Stationery	Extras
Provides an identity for students and for practicality for parents, a full school uniform is provided FREE OF CHARGE to all students.	Stationery, textbooks, and art materials to all students FREE OF CHARGE.	No enrolment fees, donations or school contributions are required. School day trips and camps are free.

Reporting and Assessment



SAMS uses the student management system HERO for all communications and reporting. Reports on class subjects are issued at the end of each term.

Teachers meet regularly and review student progress to ensure any concerns are addressed promptly.

There are two projects that are assessed each term.

Students and parents receive reporting on the completion of the projects twice per term.

3 Way Conferences (formerly Parent Teacher Interviews)

3 Way Conferences are one opportunity for parents, and students to meet with their Academic Manager to discuss progress. There are two 3 Way Conferences each year—one in Term 1 and one in Term 3. In addition parents and whānau are encouraged to communicate regarding their child and their progress if or when they need. Academic Managers welcome conversation and feedback.



South Auckland Middle School Staff

SAMS teaching and support staff are highly qualified, dedicated, and enthusiastic about sharing knowledge and are always on hand to support students' development in every way. With international experience and expertise, staff can empathise with students of all cultures and backgrounds and enhance intercultural and interracial understanding.

Leadership Team

Principal: Wendy Greig, BMus, Dip Tchg (Secondary)

Manuka Academic Manager: Melanie Patrix, BA, BA (Hons—Geo), Hdip in Ed, MEdL (Hons)

Totara Academic Manager: Chantelle Te Hira BEd (Primary)

Rata Academic Manager: Bronwyn Evans, BSc (Human Life Science), BSc (Hons), PGCE

Community Liaison Manager: Andrew Malele, BDes (Spatial Design), GradDip (Primary Tchg)

Contact Information

Office Manager: Hayley Parsons, BEd, Dip Tchg

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TERM DATES 2024

Term 1:

Thursday 1st February to Friday 12th April

Statutory Holidays:

Waitangi Day observed - Tuesday 6th February

Good Friday (Easter) - Friday 29th March

Easter Monday - Monday 1st April

Easter Tuesday - Tuesday 2nd April

ANZAC Day - Thursday 25th April

Term 2:

Monday 29th April to Friday 5th July

Statutory Holidays:

King's Birthday - Monday 3rd June

Matariki observed - Friday 28th June

Term 3:

Monday 29th July to Friday 27th September

No Statutory Holidays in Term 3

Term 4:

Monday 14th October to Friday 13th December

Statutory Holidays:

Labour Day observed - Monday 28th October



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