



YEAR 7 AND 8 PROSPECTUS

Poipoia te kaakano, kia puaawai

NURTURE THE SEED, AND IT WILL BLOSSOM



Our Vision is to develop students' unique gifts and talents and to equip them with the learning capacity to thrive in our complicated world.



2024



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Kia Ora Koutou,

Welcome to Puketaha School's Year 7 and 8 prospectus. Building students' learning capacity through developing and nurturing their unique gifts and talents is the core element to our school vision. This vision drives us all in the responsibility we collectively share as educators, parents, extended family and wider community with preparing our children for their future.

At Puketaha School, we aim to motivate and activate the minds of our students by making a clear connection between having fun and learning. This, together with our vision, is achieved through our absolute commitment to developing the Puketaha Learner (which is defined by our 6 C's.)

Being approachable is something we pride ourselves on, and our parents and extended family are always welcome to come and share in the learning of the children. The learning partnerships between home and school are paramount to a child's success.

Puketaha School is governed by an exceptional Board of Trustees who are both committed and future-focused. Together we continuously strive for the best and ensure we lead Puketaha School from strength to strength. Visitors are also always welcome at Puketaha School. I encourage you to contact me if you have any queries. Alternatively, feel free to call in and I would be delighted to show you around and showcase what makes Puketaha School such a fun, happy place that is full of learning.

Warm Regards,
Nyree Olliver (Principal)

Our Puketaha 6C's
aim to develop
learners who are...



Creative, Critical and
Caring Thinkers



Collaborators



Confident Communicators



Contributors



Courageous



Curious

WHY CHOOSE PUKETAHA FOR YOUR YEAR 7 AND 8 CHILD?

At Puketaha School, our Year 7 and 8 students are nurtured within a **safe, stable** and **supportive** school environment. **Relationships** with our students and their whaanau are highly valued, so students benefit from having teachers who make the time to get to know them, get to know their character and how they best learn. Puketaha School also aims to provide **lower student/teacher ratios**, so every child can get the attention they deserve.

Teachers design a **rich learning programme** based on the learners' academic needs and support students to meet their **potential**.

Our Puketaha Year 7 and 8 students are the leaders of our school and they are given extra opportunities to help develop **essential skills** required for their successful future.

Our Year 7 and 8 students gain a strong sense of **belonging** and **connection** to Puketaha School as they are seen as an important part of the school community. A common comment made back to us from past students is how they felt cared for, valued and their voices heard during a critical time in their development. This, in turn, supported them to go into secondary school as **confident** young adults with a **strong sense of self**, and a **love for learning**.



Values-Based Education with Students at the Heart...

Our learning programmes for Years 7 and 8 are designed with the student in mind, prioritising their academic achievement, catering to their social and emotional needs and based on our School Values. At this stage of development, students may encounter new emotions and challenges. Our teaching team is attuned to these challenges and equipped to provide support and guidance for personal growth, reflection, and resilience. Through empathy and coaching, we strive to develop well-rounded young adults who can recognise their own value, strengths and unique qualities.

Our School
Values

Aim
High

Respect

Fairness

Celebrates
Differences

Integrity

Care

FEATURES OF YEAR 7 AND 8 AT PUKETAHA SCHOOL



- A seamless continuation in developing Learner Agency and skills for learning
- Differentiated learning programmes to help cater for a wide range of learners
- Learner-centred teaching philosophies
- Leadership opportunities - we believe all students should be provided equal opportunities to develop their leadership skills
- A Big Buddies Mentoring programme - students learn how to lead and mentor younger students (five and six-year-olds)
- Weekly Technology classes at Morrinsville Intermediate School
- Biannual Sir Edmund Hillary Adventure Camp - Leadership and Challenge Focus
- Annual Sports Camp
- Eastern Waikato Country School Events
- Shine Girls - A personal development and self-worth programme for all Year 8 girls
- Epro8 Challenge (inter-school Technology and Engineering event)
- Otago Maths Problem-Solving Challenge
- ICAS Assessment opportunities
- AIMS Games (National Sporting Competition)
- Young Leaders Day
- An all-inclusive annual Performing Arts Production
- Regular Science lessons at St Paul's Collegiate in a Science Lab.
- Learning Languages - e.g., Weekly Te Reo and Mandarin lessons.
- Weekly Kapa Haka sessions.
- Explicit opportunities to lead, mentor and role model during in-school events.



A STRENGTH IN ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

At Puketaha School, we place a strong emphasis on **academic achievement** in core subjects such as **Reading, Writing, and Mathematics**, as well as in other areas of the curriculum. Our school-wide data reflects **high levels of achievement** among our students, which we attribute to our dedication to providing support and challenge to each learner, enabling them to reach their fullest potential.



E-LEARNING

Year 7 and 8 students have access to both **chromebooks and Ipads** which are **tools** used to support their in-class learning. Each student receives their own email account which is monitored through our school system. Students and whaanau also have the option to bring their own device to school. E-Learning supports **student's growth and technological confidence**.

HOME- LEARNING

Year 7 and 8 students receive weekly Home Learning activities which support their in-class learning. The Home Learning programme also allows students to develop their own **time-management strategies, organisational skills, independence and study skills**, which are useful tools as they progress to secondary school.



LEADERSHIP

Developing leadership skills is an important focus for all our intermediate-aged children, and, as a school, we look to develop these skills within all our students and offer opportunities fairly to all. Developing students' leadership skills promotes personal growth, prepares them for future challenges, enhances their self-confidence, organisational skills, and sense of purpose. These skills contribute to academic success, facilitate future learning, career readiness, and empower children to positively influence their peers. Ultimately, developing leadership skills during the intermediate years equips children with the tools they need to navigate the transition to high school, lay a strong foundation for their future, and become responsible and effective leaders in a range of contexts.



At Puketaha School, students are provided a range of opportunities to support their growth in this area. These include:

- Leading Monday morning assembly, in which all Year 8 learners are given multiple opportunities to lead.
- Leading termly Powerful Learning Assemblies.
- Big Buddy Mentoring Programme.
- Numerous leadership roles across the vast school and sporting events that take part over the year.
- Leading weekly in-class assemblies.
- Annual attendance opportunity at Young Leaders Day.
- Opportunities to support in-school sports teams (coaching/ mentoring.)
- All students have an active role in Production.
- Tongariro Leadership Camp
- Seen as role models and leaders across the school for our younger students.



MENTORING PROGRAMME



Our Mentoring Programme aims to develop leadership skills and provide leadership and mentoring opportunities to Year 7 and 8 students. The programme pairs these older students with younger students, aged 5 and 6 years old, creating a mutually beneficial relationship.

The younger students benefit from emotional support, positive feedback, and role-modelling provided by their Big Buddy, which in turn helps build their self-confidence and self-esteem. Meanwhile, the Big Buddies are able to develop their leadership and communication skills, and demonstrate care and support for their younger peers, while serving as role-models in the school and building their sense of citizenship.



Year 8 Science at St Paul's

Year 8 students attend St Paul's Collegiate school approximately 15 times a year to engage in additional Science lessons. These lessons deepen students' scientific understanding, allow them to undertake science experiments in a science lab and see first hand how a secondary school operates.



TECHNOLOGY LESSONS

Year 7 and 8 students at Puketaha School travel to Morrinsville Intermediate on a weekly basis to partake in Specialist Subjects such as Food Technology, Art, Robotics, Languages and Hard Materials. These technology subjects provide a well-rounded education that nurtures both the cognitive and practical skills of students. They offer a balance between academic learning and hands-on experiences, fostering the development of creativity, problem-solving abilities, critical thinking, and manual dexterity.



CAMP TONGARIRO

This 5-day camp at the Sir Edmond Hillary Outdoor Pursuits Centre, is a real highlight for our Year 7 and 8's and lifelong learning and memories are made. The camp has a focus on leadership, independence and self-belief. Students are supported to take risks and push through challenges.

Individuals work together in teams to explore the environment and learn skills such as kayaking, abseiling, rock climbing and caving.

Students are immersed in activities which explore leadership techniques and attributes, providing practical experiences for students to further develop and understand their own style of leadership.



THE ARTS

Our annual Roopuu Puaawai Production immerses our students into the Arts Curriculum with visual art, dance, drama and music. The students are involved with the production process and have active roles in designing and producing the scripts. Students develop their characters and costumes and perform on stage. We value this inclusive process to allow students to explore their gifts and talents and to be part of this rewarding and team building process.



KAPA HAKA

Elements of Te Reo Maaori are taught throughout the week, and students engage in weekly waiata. In addition, each learning environment participates in weekly Kapa Haka lessons, which further support in-class learning and allow learners to lead and perform waiata, haka and immerse themselves in the Maaori culture.



SPORT

At Puketaha School, we offer a range of sporting codes and have high engagement with these across the school. Puketaha School is part of the Eastern Waikato Country Schools (EWCS) Cluster. The cluster schools take turns hosting events throughout the year where learners can compete, offering students the next level of challenge in their chosen sport. Puketaha School also enters a team into the Intermediate-Aged Sports Camp each year. This week-long camp sees students compete across 30 sporting codes and participate in a Sports Cheer competition. Many of our Puketaha Students attend this camp; being an exciting opportunity for our students to compete against a wide range of other schools while representing our school.



COMMUNITY VOICE

We are so happy that we chose Puketaha school for our kids. Puketaha school is such a supportive environment for not only for our kids learning, but also for their wellbeing. Being a smaller school the teacher to student ratio is lower, so this allows the teachers to be able to work closely, alongside the kids on their learning journey together. This 'work alongside' culture in the school is not limited to the classroom. Teachers don't wait for reports or parent interviews to raise concerns or praise. They get to know the families too and will often pull us aside for a quick update on how the kids are doing.

Our kids have had some awesome opportunities with Puketaha School. Sports Camp, Kapa Haka, music, languages, Sir Edmund Hillary Outdoor pursuits in Tongariro to name but a few.

And possibly my favourite thing is the Puketaha School Community. The school works seamlessly with the community to make an inclusive, supportive, engaged and fun environment that parents and students alike WANT to be in.

Fee Edwards - parent

Cooper attended Puketaha Primary in Years 7 and 8. Having already been at the school for a few years prior allowed for a seamless transition. With the options of moving schools for intermediate, creating disruption and having to start new relationships and routines, or stay in the same place with the same friends and be able to focus on learning was an easy choice. The 7/8 years gave Cooper the opportunity to continue his learning in a familiar relaxed environment. Small groups, a couple of teachers and a learning space that is large. This all helped aid his educational and social development, and we feel prepared him well for high school.

The final years at Puketaha also gave him opportunities to develop leadership skills by interacting and supporting younger students at the school and attending leadership days.

Andrea Dunmall- parent

Puketaha School holds a very special place in the hearts of our family. Most people have heard the saying "It takes a village to raise a child" - Puketaha School has been an integral part of that village for our family from 2007 until 2020. All three of our children attended Puketaha from Year 0 through to Year 8 and I was able to work as a relief teacher in all levels of the school over the time they attended. Our children went on to attend 2 large secondary schools in Hamilton where they assimilated well and have succeeded in sports and the arts, performing well academically and socially. They have also gone on to high levels of leadership - Ruby was Head Girl of Hamilton Girls' High School in 2020 and Josiah became a Deputy Head Boy at Hamilton Boys' High School in 2023.

Their success, we believe, can be directly attributed to the foundation of learning received at Puketaha. In choosing a school for our children, my husband and I were keen for them to go to a school which went right through to Year 8, and we particularly appreciated the family "culture" that Puketaha School offered. Our children received quality education from dedicated and skilled teachers at all levels. We loved the fact that at Puketaha the different gifts and talents of our children were fostered and allowed to shine. In Year 7 and 8 they engaged in many activities that developed their leadership skills inside and outside the classroom. The buddy system where a Year 7 or 8 child teamed up with a junior 7 school child encouraged a sense of whaanaungatanga and encouraged the older ones to be good role models to the younger ones. Our children still speak lovingly of their experiences at Puketaha and will take any chance to visit even now as teenagers and young adults. We can not speak more highly of Puketaha School and its staff. We are truly grateful for all they have done to love, support and equip our children for their future.

Rachel and Simon Moetara- parents

My name is Cooper Clark and I attended Puketaha from 2018-2022.

I really enjoyed my time there, especially Year 7 & 8. It's easy having the same teachers teaching you every day because they know how you work and what you prefer. There is a big learning space in Year 7/8, which is nice if you want to collaborate with each other or tuck yourself away to work hard. Puketaha also offers opportunities with sport, as you go to Sports Camp each year where you can show your skills and hang out with your mates. I also enjoyed how your mates are in all your sports teams. I felt like we built a team culture in our basketball team because we all shared a bond over basketball.

Cooper Clark- ex-student

We wholeheartedly recommend Puketaha School for any parent considering sending their child there for their schooling, and years 7 and 8 is no exception. The school's unwavering dedication to academic excellence, holistic development, and fostering a sense of community has had a positive impact on our children's growth, happiness and present-day achievements. The curriculum is well-rounded, comprehensive, and thoughtfully designed to challenge and engage students. We have seen our children flourish academically, creatively, and socially under the guidance of the teaching staff there. The school's emphasis on critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity has helped our children develop invaluable skills that extend far beyond the classroom. Moreover, as Puketaha is a small rural school it fosters a strong sense of community. The various extracurricular activities and events organised throughout the year have provided our children with numerous opportunities to explore their interests, and develop their talents and given them many leadership opportunities that they may not have had in a larger school. The inclusive and supportive environment has enabled our children to make lasting friendships and form valuable connections. We have no hesitation in recommending Puketaha School to other families.

Sarah Kington

In my time in Year 7 and 8 I was given many opportunities to better my learning, leadership and sports. At Puketaha there is the opportunity for students to attend extra curricular events such as EWCS swimming sports, cross country, speeches and athletics.

The leadership possibilities in year 7 and 8 included the mentoring program with the juniors, year 8's leading assembly and Young Leaders day at Claudelands to name just a few. I was able to include these leadership experiences in my successful application to be on the Student Council as a year 9 representative at my new high school.

The camps on offer are an incredible once in a lifetime experience where memories were made and as young people we were challenged. Also the year 8 science program at St Paul's gave me a brilliant head start to science in year 9, as well as what I learnt from everything across the curriculum in year 7 and 8 and previous years. I found all of these very beneficial going into high school.

I loved my time at Puketaha and will always have great memories of my teachers, friends and experiences that I had there, I can not recommend it highly enough.

Tyla Webster- ex student





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