

# Montessori Adolescent Program



*'The greatest gifts we can give our children  
are the root of responsibility and the wings of independence.'*

Maria Montessori

Mitchelton State High School is a proud member of Montessori Australia and is recognised for advocating a transformational education that supports optimal human development in our students.

The Montessori Adolescent Program is structured into two learning spaces: a Junior Secondary classroom (Years 7-9) and a Senior Secondary classroom (Years 10-12). Students can either access the Montessori program full-time or part-time choosing mainstream electives, HPE and LOTE in Junior Secondary or General Subjects and/or Certificate courses in Senior Secondary.

The Montessori classroom is a diverse, inclusive and purpose-built environment with trained staff where adolescents can naturally move towards abstract ways of thinking. The Montessori philosophy for educating young people is carried out through the Montessori-specific approach to pedagogy: Students have the freedom of movement and are given choices for their learning within contextualised themes that are connected to real life. Students are getting formatively assessed (e.g. folios, projects) and will be exposed to only 'low stakes' summative assessments.





Montessori takes into account students' age and stage of their development ensuring appropriate levels of challenge. Recognising learning as a social process, the Montessori classroom reflects and mirrors real life, providing opportunities for students to problem-solve, develop independence and build self-confidence.

The Montessori Adolescent Program operates in multi-age classrooms that foster peer learning and student collaboration. Students participate in the core learning areas of Mathematics, Science, English & Humanities. Wherever possible, students work in blocks of time to allow deep learning and understanding to occur in the areas they are studying. The program is aligned to the Australian Curriculum intertwined with the Montessori principles of autonomy, curiosity and independence, underpinned by researched-based ways of learning. Units are thematically structured and designed with opportunities for extension, support and individual inquiry.

Montessori students engage in the elective subject of 'Occupations' where they apply knowledge and understanding through integrated curriculum projects that reflect occupations, incorporating Technology, the Arts and Cultural Studies. Occupations is a student-led and interest-based project space where students develop project plans, work within set time frames, negotiate topics, develop budgets and communicate progress to their peers.

*'We must help the child to act for themselves,  
will for themselves, think for themselves.'*

Maria Montessori



**MITCHELTON**  
**STATE HIGH SCHOOL**

Engaging Minds - Connecting Hearts

754 Samford Road, Mitchelton Qld 4053

Tel: (07) 3550 1111 Fax: (07) 3550 1100

Email: [admin@mitcheltonshs.eq.edu.au](mailto:admin@mitcheltonshs.eq.edu.au)

[www.mitcheltonshs.eq.edu.au](http://www.mitcheltonshs.eq.edu.au)