

THE BIG COMMITMENT

WHAT WE EXPECT OF BIG PICTURE STUDENTS



INTRODUCTION

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A Big Picture student searches the world for good learning.

You have the chance to follow your passions, find mentors in the world and create powerful learning.

You have the opportunity to work with your fellow students in a community and you will learn together and learn to work together.

This is a great opportunity.

And, as with all great opportunities, you have to make big commitments and people will expect a lot of you.

That's what this book is about – the expectations we have of you as a Big Picture student.

This book contains lists of things you should commit to in your years at school.



EXPECTATIONS OF EVERY BIG PICTURE STUDENT EVERY YEAR.

You want to learn. Your parents and advisors and mentors want to help. Here are the things we expect you to do to make your learning powerful.

Every year, every Big Picture student should:

- Explore your interests in the world by participating in at least three excursions with your school, your advisory and small groups.
- Identify and explore your interests.
- Learn how each school subject can help you understand the world.
- Explore with your advisory teacher the BPEA learning goals.
- Read books.
- Have a positive impact on your community by participating with your advisory in at least one service learning activity.
- Meet with your full Learning Plan team at least four times a year.
- Reflect on gaps in your learning and address them through project and course work.
- Create at least four Learning Plans during the year.
- Complete the work in your Learning Plan.
- Complete one advisory research project that has real world concern.

- Build a portfolio of your work.
- Exhibit publicly four times a year.
- Write in your journal three times per week.
- Complete a personal narrative each year about your learning.
- Use your supercalendar every week and plan your time over the term, the month, the week and each day.
- Come to school each day on time.
- Be responsible for your location and actions (sign out of advisory, etc.).
- Show respect for others and yourself.
- Take responsibility for your learning process.
- Take advantage of opportunities and make summer plans.
- Plan at least two significant travel excursions before graduation.

Talk through this list with your parents, mentor and teachers. Make sure you know what each item means.

This is what it takes to be a Big Picture learner.



YEAR 7 AND YEAR 8 - BEGINNING

Your big journey often begins in years 7 and 8. Now is the time to think about your real interests and how you are going to learn more about those interests.

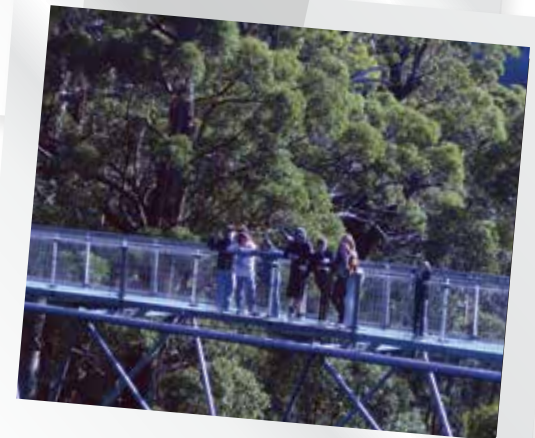
As a year 7 and 8 student, your specific requirements are:

- Explore your interests in the world participating in at least 12 excursions with at least 6 outside your local community.
- Begin to identify and explore your interests.
- Learn how each school subject discipline can help you understand the world.
- Explore with your advisory teacher the BPE learning goals.
- Read at least two books.
- Have a positive impact on your community by participating with your advisory in at least one service learning activity or project.
- Participate with your advisory class in a whole class real world research project.

You'll soon see that there are learning opportunities everywhere. You'll soon see that many adults can help you learn important things.

TO DO LIST

- ✓ Identify and explore interests
- ✓ Read at least 2 books



YEAR 9 - LEARNING THROUGH INTEREST AND INTERNSHIP

Every year, your learning opportunities grow and so do our expectations of what you should do.

As a year 9 student, your specific requirements are:

- Explore your interests in the world participating in at least 10 excursions with at least 6 outside your local community.
- Explore an interest completing at least one in-depth project.
- Explore with your advisory teacher the BPE learning goals and ensure your learning plan attends to each of them.
- Read at least three books including one autobiography.
- Have a positive impact on your community by participating with your advisory in at least one service learning activity or project.
- Participate in at least one internship in the latter half of the year.
- Do at least one LTI project.
- Write in your journal at least three times per week.
- Develop your portfolio.
- Complete a personal narrative.

By now you are learning how to learn in the world as well as at school. You are also meeting people who know a lot and are also learning all through their lives.

That's what you'll do too – learn all through your life.

TO DO LIST

✓ Read at least 3 books

✓ Do at least 1 LTI project

✓ Develop portfolio



YEAR 10 - THE GATEWAY

Year 10 is your gateway to senior school. It's your opportunity to make your learning deep and wide. It's a big opportunity and requires a big commitment.

As a year 10 student, your specific requirements are:

- Do at least two in-depth Learning Through Internships projects during the year.
- Read at least five (5) books during the year including an autobiography.
- Update your portfolio.
- Present a Gateway Exhibition during the second semester.
- Apply to enter Year 11.
- Begin to visit universities or TAFE colleges and look at requirements.
- Work on each Learning Goal area in depth.
- Create a graduation plan for the next two years to fill in Learning Goal gaps.
- Have a positive impact on your community by participating with your advisory in at least one service learning activity.

When you work this hard, you'll be getting good feedback and that should make you want to work even harder.



TO DO LIST

- ✓ Read at least 5 books
- ✓ Update portfolio
- ✓ Apply to enter Year 11

YEAR 11 - YOUR SENIOR YEARS

By Year 11, you are becoming an expert learner and a bit of a teacher as well. You will have the opportunity to learn a lot and understand the nature of learning itself. But, you will still need to work hard.

As a Year 11 student, your specific requirements are:

- Demonstrate heightened personal qualities and depth of work.
- Play a leadership role in the school.
- Mentor a younger student
- Get your Senior Thesis Project proposal approved by committee.
- Read at least 6 books during the year, including 2 autobiographies.
- Update your portfolio.
- Write the first 25 pages of your autobiography.
- Research 5 universities or TAFE colleges and their requirements.
- Plan any remaining gaps in university/TAFE admissions requirements into your Learning Plan.
- Bring your family to Careers Night.
- Visit at least 3 universities or TAFE colleges.
- Begin to create a portfolio for post-school (resume, transcripts, essay, awards, best work).
- Schedule at least 4 university/TAFE college interviews for next year.
- Prepare for any course assessments.

Many students before you have worked this hard and many have graduated to universities and TAFE colleges. Just like them, you will work hard too and you too will go on to university or TAFE.



TO DO LIST

- ✓ Mentor a younger student
- ✓ Read at least 6 books
- ✓ Research Uni



YEAR 12 - YOUR SENIOR YEARS

Year 12 is not the end of your learning; it may only be the beginning. By now you will probably be becoming an expert learner yet you'll see there is more to learn. Also by now you should be learning to help others learn.

As a Year 12 student, your specific requirements are: :

- Demonstrate heightened personal qualities and depth of work.
- Play a leadership role in the school.
- Mentor a younger student.
- Complete an in-depth Senior Thesis Project.
- Meet consistently with your Thesis mentor.
- Contact a resource related to the Thesis at least every other week and keep track of these contacts.
- Write a 75-100 page autobiography.
- Prepare for and take any required assessments.
- Complete a post-school portfolio.
- Visit and interview with at least four (4) universities or TAFE colleges.
- Apply for scholarships.
- Research and apply to a university or TAFE college.
- Apply for financial aid.
- Read one book each month (9 total, including one autobiography).
- Update your portfolio.
- Create a post-high school plan.
- Present your work and reflection at a graduation exhibition.

You will graduate from school as an expert learner. You'll be able to learn in school as well as in the world. Next, you'll become an expert learner at TAFE or university.



TO DO LIST

- ✓ Mentor a younger student
- ✓ Complete a Senior Thesis Project
- ✓ Complete a post-school portfolio



"If you believe you can, you probably can. If you believe you won't, you most assuredly won't. Belief is the ignition switch that gets you off the launching pad."

Finish these sentences:

I believe I

can....

train animals. help sick animals

THE BIG COMMITMENT

- This has been a book of lists.
- Think about each list.
- Think about each item on each list.
- You might need to re-read the list.
- Talk about these commitments with your student friends, parents, mentors and teachers.
- Parts of these lists will change depending on your interests, your school and your community.
- Make them your own.
- Use the lists to measure your progress.
- See how much you have achieved.

All this from your big commitment to Big Picture.



YOUR BOOK RECORD

Record the books you have read in the space allocated below.

Year 7: 2 books read

1. _____

2. _____

Year 8: 2 books read

1. _____

2. _____

Year 9: 3 books read

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Year 10: 5 books read

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Year 11: 6 books read

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

Year 12: 6 books read

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____



ONE STUDENT AT A TIME IN
A COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS

SMALL SCHOOLS BY DESIGN

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