

INTERNATIONAL PROSPECTUS



Empowering
students to
thrive in our
Whānau culture

From our Principal



Kia ora koutou, thank you for considering Mountainview High School as your school of choice.

I hope this prospectus provides you with an understanding of our innovative and creative culture. Our philosophy is to provide each child with an education that empowers them to thrive in all aspects of their life.

The staff at Mountainview High School work tirelessly to provide unique learning experiences for our students. Our courses are highly engaging and responsive to the needs of our learners. We understand the world is changing, so we must adapt our teaching and learning programmes to ensure our students develop the skills needed for success in their future.

A student's high school experience, however, goes far beyond the sole focus of academic achievement. At Mountainview we ensure that every student's hauora is supported so they are successful in their secondary education.

We see looking after our students' wellbeing as being equally as important as their academic progress.

Our ākonga thrive in our whānau environment. Although friendly rivalry exists between the whānau, we pull together and look out for each other when needed. Our students' unconditional support for each other is one of the reasons our kura is so special. The whānau system gives every learner a sense of belonging and embodies the Māori concept of tūrangawaewae.

It is my pleasure to welcome you to our school, and I look forward to you visiting us to meet our amazing students for yourself.

Kenny Diamond
Principal





About us



Mountainview High School is an exciting and thriving Year 9 to Year 13 co-educational secondary school located in Timaru, central South Island, New Zealand.

Whilst we have a history that goes back more than 100 years we have only been on the current school site since the mid 1980s.

This relocation presented us with the rare opportunity to redevelop the school completely, making the most of modern learning environments and embracing new technologies, such as Digital Learning.

We place our students at the heart of every decision we make. This allows us to respond to the needs of our community in engaging and innovative ways. Our learning programmes are tailored to provide our students with the best chance of academic, sporting, cultural, and personal success.

We have excellent teachers, superb learning spaces, and a picturesque environment that is the envy of most schools in the country. We recognise “what works” in education, but also acknowledge that the world is changing and we must change too. Sometimes it is not a matter of simply doing things better; sometimes you must adapt and do better things.

Together we understand that our students, and their whānau, bring an abundance of riches to our school; their stories have great wealth and deserve to be heard. Our responsibility is to support our students and their whānau as they continue to write their stories. We achieve this by providing deep learning experiences in a co-curricular environment that encourages them to work together, while thinking critically about the big issues their generation will face.

For our ākonga, their education is not confined to what happens in the classroom. Our Careers department works closely with local business and tertiary institutes to provide a range of experiences to help students choose their future pathways. We also offer our students a wide range of sporting, and cultural opportunities during the school year. These activities run through the week (before, during and after school) and on weekends, so you can be sure to find an activity that fits in with your lifestyle.

We are proud of our students, both past and present, and acknowledge the hard work completed by everyone associated with Mountainview High School since its opening in March 1984. Our current students continue to build upon our culture of curiosity, kindness, innovation and whānau this gives us great hope for the future. Our staff continue to ensure that the Mountainview students of today become the leaders of tomorrow.



Homestay

Our international students come to us from all over the world as part of their overseas experience. International study can be an incredibly enriching experience, offering numerous benefits and opportunities for personal growth.

At Mountainview High School we work hard to ensure that students are placed in home stays with caring

families that help students settle quickly to the New Zealand way of life and overcome any anxiety or nerves. These families are carefully selected and monitored during the student's stay.

Mountainview High School families are specifically chosen for their care and support, listening closely to the needs and requests of the students, enhancing intercultural understanding, empathy, and global citizenship. We ensure our student's stay is filled with lifelong memories.

Rest assured that student safety is our top priority. Our carefully selected host families undergo a thorough screening process to ensure a secure and trustworthy environment. All members of the household over 18 are regularly police vetted. We strive to create a safe space, supported by regular checks from our homestay coordinator.



"Host families are not an important thing - they are everything"

International Department Staff

You will be welcomed and supported throughout your time in Timaru by our international team.



Nicki Stephenson
International Director



Kenny Diamond
Principal



Liana Irvine
ESOL, Digital Technology & Technology,
International Dean

Learning at Mountainview High School

Year 9 and 10

The foundation years at Mountainview High School are guided by our commitment to our school values. We believe that students thrive when they have *Tūrangawaewae* (a sense of belonging) and we achieve that by fostering relationships in the Junior school.

Year 9 and 10 students split their time between collaborative core classes and our innovative elective programmes. *Whānau* classes cover English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and Physical Education while electives provide students with an opportunity to develop their passions in our Languages, Technology, Sports, or Performing and Cultural Arts programmes.

Core Classes

In these classes, our teachers work collaboratively in an inclusive *whānau* environment to ensure students gain foundational knowledge, skills, and understandings of key ideas and concepts which are vital for success in the Senior school. In addition to the wide range of rich learning contexts explored in these classes, students will develop their Literacy and Numeracy to ensure they can be successful in their senior years. Our *Whānau* classes provide the perfect environment for our students to begin their learning journey at Mountainview High School.

Elective Classes

Our Electives offer a wealth of opportunities for our young people to ignite their passion for learning across a range of specialist subject areas. During these classes students will build their understanding, knowledge and skills as they engage in both traditional and project based learning sessions. Electives provide a unique experience for students to feel the excitement and joy, as well as the sense of pride that comes from working in a collaborative project based environment.

Year 11

As students move into Year 11, they will experience NCEA for the first time. For many of our students, Year 11 is the time where they begin to think seriously about their future and what that progression looks like. Our Year 11 programme supports students to develop independence, and critical thinking as they complete their NCEA Level 1 Certificate. From specialist degrees like Law, Medicine, and Engineering to a career in the trades or as a passionate entrepreneur, our expert teachers and careers counselors carefully guide students through Year 11 so that they are set up for success in the Senior years at school.

Year 12 and 13

The Senior school sets students up to thrive beyond life at school. In our senior years all classes are specialised and provide students with the understanding, knowledge and skills they need for their careers after school. Our senior students are encouraged to be critical and creative thinkers with the ability to respond and adapt to any challenges that present themselves. In the Senior school we have academic and vocational pathways to support students no matter where their journey takes them. There are no compulsory subjects in Years 12 and 13, so every student is free to build a timetable that supports them to achieve their goals.

Ako Curriculum

Ako is our extensive pastoral care programme that covers all aspects of student life from study habits and personal wellbeing, to academic and career tracking. Ako class is a vertical stream class containing students from Years 9 - 13. Building and maintaining high trust positive relationships is crucial to Ako, so we strive to ensure students have the same Ako teacher for the entirety of their time here at Mountainview. The Ako teacher acts as a hub that connects home to school; they are the first stop for parents wishing to discuss anything that relates to their child and their learning here at school.

As students progress through the school, Ako acts as a safe space for them to build *Rangatiratanga* and lead their peers through a range of curricular and extracurricular activities. As students enter the Senior school, it is expected that they will undertake leadership roles through mentorship of our younger students.



Sporting Opportunities

Our holistic approach to education is founded on nurturing a healthy mind and a healthy body. Students are actively encouraged and supported to participate in sports teams during their time here.

We pride ourselves in giving our students as many sporting opportunities as possible.

We offer a wide variety of sports to our students, which would not be possible without the wonderful support of our staff, parents and community volunteers.

Sports are offered at different age levels and this often means there is something for everyone, regardless of age or ability.



Cultural Opportunities

Culture and the Performing Arts are very much alive and thriving at Mountainview High School. Our Arts and Culture programmes allow our students to build confidence and develop a huge range of skills by participating in our Musical Production, Mahi Toi (Music, Drama & Art), Māori Performing Arts, and Te Reo Mori programmes. Regardless of your chosen disciplines, we offer a range of opportunities for students to enjoy the rich tapestry of the Performing and Cultural Arts pathways Aotearoa has to offer.



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Students can enjoy the following pursuits:

Anzac Remembrance

Arts Week

Cultural Exchanges

Environmental Council

International Students Day/Cultural Fiesta

Jazz Band

Junior and Senior Drama Productions

Kapa Haka

Library

Student Volunteer Army

Theatre Sports

Arts Council

Young Enterprise Program

Lunchtime Concerts

Matariki celebrations

Mouties Got Talent

Music Lessons

Pride week

Te Ana Maori Rock Art visits

Te Manu Kōrero speech competitions

National Theatre Productions

Research Field Trips

Peer Support

Whanau Council

Exec Council

Facilities

Mountainview High School facilities are the envy of the South Island. Set in 11 hectares of park like grounds, we offer state of the art resources for next generation learning:

- Multiple computing suites
- Full size gymnasium, weights room and golf simulator
- Specialist performing arts resources
- Music and sound studios
- Modern technology spaces
- Dynamic library and resources

Our physical environment plays a crucial role in setting the tone for learning. It is clean, well-lit and organised, with comfortable seating arrangements that accommodate both individual and collaborative activities. Our generous space and resources are easily accessible to facilitate learning.



Whānau system

On enrolment at Mountainview High School each student is welcomed into one of our Whānau (Moana, Hiwi, or Whenua). This Whānau will be your central hub for the entire time you are at school. In NZ Whanau means family.

There is a great deal of rivalry between the three Whānau within the school, and each year they compete across a range of sporting, academic, and cultural activities, for the Preen's Shield. Our Whānau system also provides a foundation for our education and wellbeing platforms (Ako).

Uniform

Mountainview High School has an expectation that all students will wear our school uniform. This promotes a sense of identity and belonging amongst the students and fosters a feeling of fellowship. Everyone wears the same attire, creating an environment where individuals are judged based on their character, skills, and achievements rather than their appearance or clothing.





Our Values - Te Awa

Braided rivers are quite rare and Aotearoa has a number of them. Rivers flow from the mountains to the sea and our values flow, from our kura to our community. Each braid represents a different value, separate but weaving between each other as they make their way to the sea.

Whanaungatanga

Whanaungatanga means relationships, kinship, a sense of family connection, building trust and long lasting bonds. It is a relationship through shared experiences and working together which provides people with a sense of belonging. It develops as a result of kinship rights and obligations, which also serve to strengthen each member of the kin group. It also extends to others to whom one develops a close familial, friendship or reciprocal relationship. Through developing Whanaungatanga, young people are nurtured in the community, so they can contribute strongly in society. It is fundamental to tuakana teina, which is reciprocal or shared learning.

Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi. Engari, he toa takitini.

Success is not the work of one, but the work of many.

Manaakitanga

Manaakitanga means hospitality, kindness, generosity and support. It is the process of showing respect and caring for others. Hospitality is a value that if done well can have a long lasting effect. It is also the natural etiquette of care and compassion and for treating others as you would like them to treat you.

He aroha whakatō, he aroha puta mai.

If kindness is shown then kindness you shall receive.

Kaitiakitanga

Kaitiakitanga means guardianship and protection. It is a way of managing the environment, based on the Māori world view. Kaitiaki is a guardian. This can be a person or a group that cares for an area such as a lake or forest. Kaitiakitanga is about caring for the environment and also taking care of others, through guardianship. It is also about self care and taking care of oneself.

Whatungarongaro te tangata toitū te whenua.

As people disappear from sight, the land remains.

Rangatiratanga

Rangatiratanga means chieftainship, the right to exercise authority, chiefly autonomy and authority, leadership of a social group, sovereignty, self determination and self management. Rangatiratanga is about being determined, open minded, reflective and committed. It can be demonstrated by the tuakana (seniors) leading by example to the teina (juniors), through role modelling the expected behaviours of the kura (school).

Ko te amorangi ki mua, te hāpai ō ki muri.

Leadership to the fore, we all have important roles to play.

Pūkengatanga

Pūkengatanga is about striving for the pursuit of excellence in everything that we do. It is about giving value to all backgrounds, prior experiences and skills. Pūkengatanga is about being open to learning, being prepared and dedicated to achieving goals and objectives.

Puraho maku, kei ngaure o mahi.

Let others acknowledge your strengths.



Timaru - New Zealand

From sandy beaches through to native bush and mountain tops, the Timaru District is the perfect place to explore.

Timaru is a port city in the southern Canterbury Region of New Zealand, located 157 km (98 mi) southwest of Christchurch and about 196 km (122 mi) northeast of Dunedin on the eastern Pacific coast of the South Island. The Timaru urban area is home to 28,600 people, and is the largest urban area in South Canterbury, and the second largest in the Canterbury Region overall, after Christchurch. The town is the seat of the Timaru District, which includes the surrounding rural area and the towns of Geraldine, Pleasant Point and Temuka, which combined have a total population of 48,500.

Caroline Bay beach is a popular recreational area located close to Timaru's main centre, just to the north of the substantial port facilities. Beyond Caroline Bay, the industrial suburb of Washdyke is at a major junction with State Highway 8, the main

route into the Mackenzie Country. This provides a road link to Pleasant Point, Fairlie, Twizel, Lake Tekapo, Aoraki / Mount Cook and Queenstown.

Timaru has been built on rolling hills created from the lava flows of the extinct Mt Horrible volcano, which last erupted thousands of years ago. The result is that most of the main streets are undulating, a clear contrast with the flat landscape of the Canterbury Plains to the north. This volcanic rock is used for the construction of local "bluestone" buildings.



Caroline Bay - Timaru

Mountainview High School provides:

- Highly qualified and passionate staff
- Leadership opportunities
- Outstanding facilities and resources
- Specialist English Language Learning

Why choose Mountainview High School:

- We offer an extensive range of subjects
- We have specific strengths in languages, culture, technology, sciences, music, drama and the arts
- We provide pathways to tertiary institutions worldwide
- We have high quality homestays and pastoral support

Why choose a co-ed school for your child:

- Provides students with the opportunity to interact and form relationships
- It prepares students for a diverse and inclusive society
- Studies suggest that coeducation can lead to enhanced academic performance.
- Healthy competition between gender can spur students to strive for excellence.
- Coeducational high schools provide a more natural social environment to prepare adolescents for adulthood

Empowering students to thrive in our Whānau culture



Building lasting
relationships between
students, home & school



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