

Greenmeadows Intermediate School

Piki ki te rangi - Reach for the sky

Greenmeadows Intermediate is a great school and coming here is an excellent choice!

The intermediate years of schooling are a very special time in a child's life. It is the beginning of many new experiences and it is our hope that students find their time with us both challenging and rewarding.

The NZ Curriculum recognises the "middle years" (Year 7 – 10) as a distinctly different learning experience to traditional primary and secondary schooling pathways.

During this time, this age group is maturing physically and developing emotionally; they require a school environment that is geared to meet their unique learning, physical, emotional and social needs. Greenmeadows Intermediate is well placed to ensure students who attend our school are well catered for in all of these areas.

Greenmeadows Intermediate is well set up to:

- ▶ Provide a curriculum that is responsive and appropriate to the full range of needs, interests and achievements of this particular age group. It should be, and is, different to what they have experienced at primary school.
- ▶ Employ staff who are specialist teachers of young adolescents. Our teachers are committed to working with this age level; they are able to nurture trusting relationships with them and they make learning meaningful as they work to set them up well for high school.
- ▶ Direct all of our significant resourcing to ensuring our Year 7 & 8 students engage in a wide range of experiences and opportunities that may be different to what they have experienced at primary school.

We hope you find our prospectus useful in providing you with information about Greenmeadows Intermediate and what you can expect from a quality intermediate education.

You can learn more about our school by visiting our school website at

www.greenmeadows.school.nz



Mission

Greenmeadows Intermediate School seeks to provide a learning community that empowers all to recognise and optimise their educational and personal potential.

Situated on the east side of Manurewa, Greenmeadows Intermediate is a school that draws from a very diverse community. In general, our school is made up of approximately:

- 30% Maori
- 27% Pasifika
- 19% NZ European
- 12% Indian
- 6% Asian
- 6% from other cultures

The staff is diverse, including a wide range of cultures, experience and expertise. We draw mainly from our four feeder schools; Manurewa Central, Hillpark Primary, Everglade and Manurewa East. In addition, we also enrol a significant number of students who live outside our immediate area. Our school does not have an enrolment zone.

We pride ourselves on our inclusive practices and the school welcomes and caters well for all students, including those with learning or behavioural needs, or special gifts and talents. The positive and welcoming “feel” to the school is one of which we are very proud, and this is often commented on by visitors and new families. GIS hosts two satellite classes and we value the added dimension our relationship with Rosehill School brings to our school culture.

A significant feature of the school is its modern, attractive and carefully designed learning environment, including purpose built specialist areas for technology, music, dance and visual art. The school library is a modern hub for learning with a wide selection of quality books and devices available for student use. The school is extremely well resourced with support staff, modern learning resources and a wide range of digital devices to enhance and support quality learning.

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Vision

Greenmeadows Intermediate aims to be:

- ▶ The school of choice for the community, offering an intermediate pathway that specialises in meeting the learning and developmental needs of the emerging adolescent.
- ▶ A school with its eye on the future, who work in partnership with whanau to develop young people who strive to be connected, confident, actively involved lifelong learners.
- ▶ A school that grows student achievement through the delivery of a purpose built, integrated curriculum created specifically to meet the particular needs and interests of this age level.
- ▶ A school that honours the Treaty of Waitangi and the place of the tangata whenua.
- ▶ A school where students, teachers and families are accepted for who they are; where our diversity and differences are celebrated for the richness they bring to our school.
- ▶ A school with a safe and inclusive culture where student and staff wellbeing flourishes.
- ▶ A school where teacher learning is valued as much as student learning; where opportunities are provided to ensure teachers have a clear knowledge and understanding of the academic, physical and social needs of this age group.

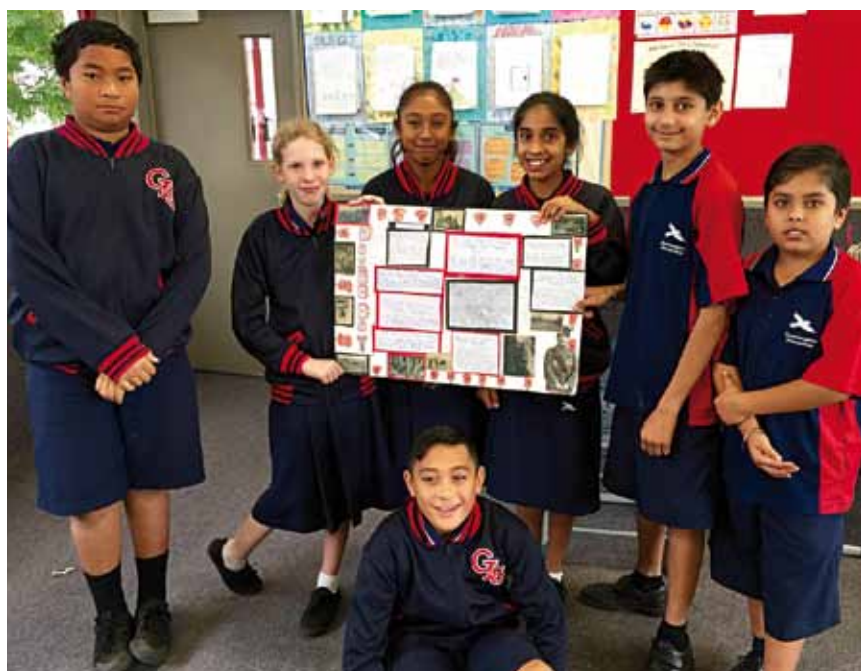
At Greenmeadows Intermediate, we work hard to build a culture where our students “do the right thing as it is the right thing to do”. Respect, tolerance, cooperation and perseverance are our four core school values that underpin the positive school culture of which we are very proud.

Tolerance

Cooperation

Respect

Perseverance



Aspirations for Learning

At Greenmeadows we aim to equip our students with the future focussed skills and competencies they will need to continue along their schooling pathway as confident, active, connected, lifelong learners. The skills and competencies we aim to foster and develop during the two years your child attends our school are described as our “Aspirations for Learning”



Be healthy

We aim for our students to take increasing personal responsibility for hauora; their own health, fitness and general wellbeing.

“He waka eke noa”

We are all in the canoe,
no exceptions!

Be creative

Students are encouraged to think creatively. We want them to develop the ability to explore new ideas, concepts and ways of doing things.

Be resilient

The ability to “bounce back” from life’s “ups and downs” is a key skill for this age level, especially as they enter puberty.



Be connected

We foster and encourage technologically capable learners who are also responsible digital citizens.

Be a good citizen

In our school, in our community and of our environment.

We want our students to care about the practices and beliefs of Maori as tangata whenua, as well as other cultures.



Be a thinker and a problem solver

Students are provided with opportunities to strengthen their critical thinking skills as we support them to make good decisions, understand the consequences of their actions and solve problems in a wide range of contexts.

Be of good character

“Do the right thing because it is the right thing to do!”

Be friendly.

Be kind.

Be tolerant.

Be respectful.



Be a good communicator

As students work towards meeting or exceeding National Standards levels, they will be developing increasingly sophisticated oral, visual and written communication skills.

Our Curriculum

The content of an intermediate school curriculum should look and feel different to what students have experienced at primary school.

The GIS curriculum is designed to:

- ▶ Foster high levels of achievement
- ▶ Include high levels of challenge and choice
- ▶ Strengthen critical, caring and creative thinking skills
- ▶ Incorporate e-learning
- ▶ Be student centred and relevant
- ▶ Be adapted to align with individual student needs

We prepare students for high school by offering a future focussed curriculum that is relevant, challenging and integrated. We encourage students to make decisions and take full responsibility for their learning and progress. Your child will have the opportunity to explore new subjects while having the security of being attached to one class group. English, Maths, Social Science, Science and Health & PE are taught by their classroom teacher.

Intermediate Schools are able to provide a range of subjects for all students that are taught by teachers who specialize in a particular area. At Greenmeadows, specialist programmes include:

- ▶ Technology: Food Technology, Bio Technology, Robotics & Digital Technology (3D Printing)
- ▶ Arts: Visual Arts, Performing Arts – Music, Dance and Drama
- ▶ Learning Languages: Te Reo

In addition, we provide a wide range of extension programmes including:

- ▶ Cultural Groups (currently Kapahaka, Pasifika, Bollywood)
- ▶ Performing Arts groups – Choir, Year 7 and 8 Bands, String ensemble, Ukulele Group, Marimba Group, Drumming Group, various dance groups
- ▶ Extension Art, Music, Science & Technology programmes for students with particular talents in these areas
- ▶ A rich Education Outside the Classroom programme, including school camps and educational visits
- ▶ Individual keyboard, flute and violin lessons provided by an experienced and qualified tutor at a very reasonable cost



E-Learning

Young people today are growing up in a digital world and are comfortable with technology. Greenmeadows Intermediate provides an ICT enriched environment with wireless access. Students are supported to use ICT as a tool to extend and enrich their learning across the curriculum. A range of devices are provided for student use; they have access to laptops, chrome books, ipads, interactive whiteboards and cameras to support their learning.

Students can choose to buy or bring their own laptop or chrome book to school. Should your child wish to take part in the BYOD programme, additional information can be found in the enrolment pack.



Sports

The challenge and enjoyment of sports is a feature of our school and there are many sporting opportunities available for your child to take part in. The whole school is involved in planned fitness and sporting programmes at a classroom level. A wide range of equipment is provided during breaks to help keep students engaged in physical activity. Organised sports takes place during the third break each day.

We are fortunate to have highly skilled sports coaches on staff who give up a lot of their own time to train and coach school teams to compete in the Counties Manukau Zone tournaments and, if successful, Auckland Champion of Champion competitions.

Sporting codes we offer for both boys and girls include:

- Softball
- Basketball
- Cricket
- Cross Country
- Orienteering
- Volleyball
- Soccer
- Touch
- Rugby
- Athletics
- Rugby League
- Golf
- Hockey
- Tae Kwon Do
- Netball





Science

Ensuring our students are engaging in quality science learning experiences has been a focus at Greenmeadows Intermediate for the last 3 years. We want our students to be curious about the world around them and confident in their ability to conduct a science investigation before they move on to high school. The Board of Trustees has invested significant funds into professional learning in this area of the curriculum; as a result our teachers are confident to provide science lessons that enable students to think, read and write like scientists.

Careers Education

Children of this age are learning to make connections between their own strengths and interests and the jobs that they see and learn about. At Greenmeadows, a rich and varied approach to learning about careers is promoted. Students are provided with opportunities to broaden their understanding of the world of work as teachers help them make connections between peoples learning, abilities and interests and the careers they choose.

Our Careers Education Programme enables students to:

- ▶ recognise their own strengths and how they might link with their futures
- ▶ share and talk about their developing aspirations
- ▶ participate in enjoyable learning experiences that include exposure to real people and real situations
- ▶ hear from other young people about their experiences; inspirational role models

Learning Languages

In addition to the specialist Te Reo classes which all students take part in, we also offer a range of other options for students to learn a different language. These other options are based around the particular knowledge and expertise of our bilingual staff and currently include Samoan, Korean, Spanish and Mandarin.



Leadership Opportunities

We provide range of opportunities to develop the leadership skills of students further by encouraging them to take on a range of roles within the school. We have a student council who were elected to their position by students and staff. We also have class ambassadors who are appointed at the start of the year. In addition, we seek to further the leadership skills of students who show potential within the following dimensions:

- ▶ Natural Leaders who demonstrate leadership across a range of dimensions
- ▶ Academic Leaders
- ▶ Cultural leaders
- ▶ Sporting Leaders
- ▶ Leaders in the Performing Arts
- ▶ Leaders who provide service to the school and community

Opportunities for these students include both school based and external activities including:

- ▶ Leadership Camp
- ▶ National Young Leaders Conference
- ▶ Sir Peter Blake Leadership events

Reporting to Parents

Parents are encouraged to come in and discuss their child's progress at school. We have an open door policy at Greenmeadows, although if the person you wish to speak to is not available, an appointment may need to be made for another time. Please be aware that teachers are teaching between 8.45 – 3.00p.m. and will not be available during these times, unless a prior arrangement has been made.

Formal reporting opportunities for sharing student progress during the year comprise of Written Reports in Term 1 and 4, Goal Setting Conferences each term and information evenings.



Supporting Learners with Special Education Needs

Led by the Principal and Leader of Learning Support, the staff at Greenmeadows Intermediate are committed to ensuring that the necessary provision is made for any student who has special education needs. The school operates an equal opportunities policy for children with special educational needs and they are afforded the same rights as other students. Individual programmes for students with special needs are delivered within the regular class setting, where practical.

The Leader of Learning Support has responsibility for the day to day co-ordination of provisions for students with special needs. The school provides excellent support, drawing on the expertise of a range of personnel including:

- ▶ Social Worker in Schools
- ▶ Health Nurse
- ▶ Resource Teacher: Learning & Behaviour
- ▶ Ministry of Education; Special Education staff
- ▶ Oranga Tamariki

We offer a number of programmes to support learners with special education or behavioural needs including:

- ▶ Individualised and group extension programmes for students with special gifts and talents.
- ▶ Additional support for those students with special learning needs which is not appropriately covered by the normal classroom programme.
- ▶ English for Speakers of Other Languages programme to support non-English speaking students regardless of whether they are immigrants or were born in New Zealand.
- ▶ Social skills development programme for students who struggle to maintain positive relationships with their peers.

Transition from Primary to Intermediate School

Robust systems are in place at our school to support students and their families to experience a smooth transition from primary to intermediate. We work in partnership with our feeder schools to ensure that we are well informed about each child's learning; this is invaluable for helping us to ensure your child's learning needs are well catered for right from the start. Year 6 students are provided with opportunities to visit the school before they start. We encourage parents to come and visit us as well. We hold two information visits (one in the evening, one during the day), but parents are welcome to make an appointment to meet with any one of the school leadership team if they would like more detailed information or a tour of the school. Feedback from our parents about how well they feel we support students through the transition process is always very positive.

"I am amazed at the transition my child has made. I was previously concerned about her adjusting from primary to intermediate but she absolutely loves GIS. It has given my child a sense of growing up whilst giving a bit more responsibility, independence and taking ownership for ones self/work."

" Teachers and staff in general are very open and friendly. Good information evening and written communications. Amazing welcome being sung into the hall by Year 8's on the first day. Strong sense of family and sense of place."

(Parent Comment)

Positive Behaviour for Learning

At Greenmeadows Intermediate, the provision of an environment in which our students feel safe both physically and emotionally is of the highest priority as these factors link so closely with their social and educational development. We expect students to make good choices and “do the right thing”.

Conflict between students of this age level is normal; we work to develop the abilities of students’ to resolve conflict in a positive way with a focus on restoring the relationship. We believe the advantage of a restorative approach to the management of conflict is that:

- ▶ The school is seen to be fair because of the way it deals with issues.
- ▶ “Victims” have an opportunity to express how they feel and have their needs met in a safe way.
- ▶ “Offenders” see the effect of their actions and have a chance to “make things right” and restore their relationship with the victim.

Prevention of Bullying

Bullying can be found in every school in the country. Having said that, we survey our students every year using the Wellbeing@School survey tool to find out how effective we are in creating a safe and caring environment that deters bullying. Our current students strongly agree that behaviours like hitting or bullying are not OK at Greenmeadows. They agree that students get on well with other students from different cultures, that everyone knows what to do if someone is being hurt or bullied, and that teachers and students care about each other. They agree that teachers will do something to stop bullying when they know it is happening.

At Greenmeadows Intermediate School, we recognise the extent and impact of bullying and take steps to stop it happening. We believe everyone has a responsibility to recognise bullying in all its forms and to take action when they see it happening. As a school we foster a “telling environment” through the development of strong and positive staff and pupil relationships, where students feel safe to report instances of bullying. We want our students to know and believe that telling will result in a fair resolution and that they can trust adults with information about bad behavior.

Communication

Communication between the home and school is really important and we try to ensure there are a range of ways you can keep in contact with what is happening at the school.

- ▶ The school website is a great “go to” place for information. There is a place on the website to sign up for the school newsletter if we do not already have your email address.
- ▶ The school newsletter is published each fortnight and circulated via email, the website and school app.
- ▶ Communication messages and “good news” stories are regularly posted on our school facebook page.
- ▶ We have a School App which our parents have found extremely useful and practical. Parents can sign up for various alerts, let us know when their child is absent, book for students conferences etc.



General Information

After School Care and Holiday Programme

The school has an on site After School Care and Holiday Programme. This is operated by i-Hub which is part of the Skids franchise. The after school care operates from 3.00p.m. to 6.00p.m. Monday to Friday.

From 2018, Year 5 or 6 students from Manurewa Central will also be able to attend, along with any siblings of enrolled Greenmeadows students. The Board has made the decision to allow this to happen to provide parents with more options for keeping their children in the one place for after school care.

This programme is MSD Oscar approved and the Work & Income subsidy is available. (conditions apply). More information about the programme can be found at www.ihub.co.nz



Office Hours

The school office is open from 8.00a.m. until 4.00p.m. during the term. Office hours during the school holidays are advertised in the school newsletter and on the school website before the end of term.

Assemblies

Led by the student council, school assemblies are a real feature of our school and are enjoyed by students and parents alike each fortnight. They are an opportunity for the varying achievements of students to be recognized and celebrated. Performance groups showcase their talents during these times and each team takes a term to “present” aspects of current learning.

Parents are encouraged to join us at assembly time; should your child be an award recipient, you will receive a special invitation.

Bus Services to Greenmeadows

Murphy Buses run morning and afternoon bus routes through the Everglade, Hillpark and Clendon areas. Students are dropped off and collected from the Greenmeadows Ave entrance. These are not “school buses” as such, the difference being that they are not contracted by the Ministry of Education; they are a public bus service. Students can pay with cash or they can use an AT HOP card. Further information about the route can be found at the back of this pack.

MANA Kidz Clinic

We have a MANA Kidz Clinic on site. This means we have a Public Health Nurse and a whanau support worker in school each morning providing free health checks to prevent rheumatic fever and skin infections. Please make sure you complete the MANA Kidz Consent Form enclosed in this pack.

Kindo Online Shop

Parents are able to pay for all school related costs using our online school shop which is accessible through our school website or school app. We strongly encourage parents to set up an account and use this method of payment; it is available 24/7. Permission slips and other forms can be completed online at the same time payments are made. Many of our parents find this much more convenient than having to send cash to school, or come in themselves. Of course, you can still do this if you wish!

School Uniform

Wearing the correct school uniform helps to establish a sense of belonging to a school and we encourage students to have pride in their appearance. We do expect the correct uniform to be worn at all times when students are travelling to and from school, as well as during the school day. Further information about our uniform is included in this pack.

Health & Safety

A detailed health and safety booklet accompanies this pack outlining emergency procedures along with other important information on systems in place to keep your child safe at school.

Cellphones & Other Devices

Many of our students bring mobile phones for use before and after school. We do not allow these to be used during school time as they tend to distract from the learning. Teachers collect phones at the start of the day and lock them away for safe keeping. They are released back to the child before they go home. During class time BYOD devices are kept in lockable cupboards when not in use. Other electronic equipment such as ipods, portable gaming units etc are not to be brought to school. Students found in possession of cellphones or other devices not approved by the school will have the item confiscated and parents informed. Any items confiscated will be able to be collected by the parent/caregiver from the school office.

While we try our best to support the safe keeping of student belongings, the school is not able to accept responsibility for any digital device that may be stolen or lost. Parents and students need to be aware of, and accept, the potential risks involved in bringing these items to school.

Lost Property

All students clothing needs to be clearly named, as everyone's uniform looks the same and most are similar in size!

Lost property is kept at reception and students are encouraged to check there if they have lost clothing. At the end of each term any remaining property is displayed for viewing.

