



## HIGH SCHOOL PROSPECTUS 2024

Oakley House High School is an independent school specialising in supporting students who struggle to achieve their potential in a mainstream classroom. The school's aim is to provide a complete education sensitive to the academic, social and emotional needs of the students.

At Oakley House High School we aim to offer sympathetic assistance to students whose learning difficulties affect their ability to achieve their potential in a mainstream classroom, be it for academic, social or emotional reasons. Examples of difficulties include ASD, ADHD, dyslexia, processing and working memory challenges, anxiety, etc. Our priority is to build confidence and to develop a positive attitude to learning by providing specialised teaching within an atmosphere of support and understanding for each student's specific needs. We do this in an age-appropriate context of building independence, and of following the CAPS curriculum, our aim being for all students to achieve a National Senior Certificate pass at the end of Grade 12. The High School prides itself on being a safe space where students can thrive (instead of just survive) and where they can be happy.

Oakley House High also offers an **Alternative Stream programme** for students unable to cope with the CAPS curriculum. This stream caters for students between 13-18 years of age. The programme also offers a **GETC stream** for students who cannot meet the demands of Grade 9 but who aspire to a school leaving certificate that enables them to enter the TVET system. For more information, please see the Alternative Stream prospectus.

This prospectus pertains to individuals interested in following the **CAPS curriculum in Grades 7-12**.

Not yet seen our website?

See <https://www.oakleyhouse.co.za/high.html> or scan our QR code.



## CRITERIA FOR ACCEPTANCE

Applicants should have the ability to access the CAPS curriculum and must have an assessment from an educational psychologist – not older than two years. As a small specialist school with a very limited number of places, we carefully assess the suitability of each student during a week-long observation period before making a decision as to whether we can offer a place. Observation also gives the child a chance to see if Oakley is where they want to be. A positive attitude towards learning and school plays a big role in deciding if Oakley is the right place for a child. The High School will not offer any student a place unless the staff feels confident that they have the capacity to help them. We also will not accept students who have emotional or behavioural problems which might seriously inhibit their progress or compromise the learning of others.

*Please contact the school for more detail on the Application process.*

## CURRICULUM

Oakley House High School follows the Revised National Curriculum (CAPS) for Grades 7-12.

### GRADES 7-9

The curriculum for Grades 7-9 is standard, except for Digital Technology which replaces conventional Technology.

### GRADES 10-12

**The compulsory subjects are:**

- English Home Language
- Afrikaans First Additional Language
- Mathematics OR Mathematics Literacy
- Life Orientation, incorporating Physical Education

**In addition, students must choose three of the following elective subjects** (*this list is subject to change and restrictions of combinations*):

- Business Studies
- History
- Life Sciences
- Computer Applications Technology (CAT)
- Tourism
- Physical Sciences
- Visual Arts\*
- Engineering Graphics and Design (EGD)
- Design\*

*\*Conducted in the afternoons at the Peter Clarke Art Centre in Claremont. The school does not provide transport.*

The school has had an almost perfect Matric pass rate since the first Matric group in 2017. Almost 60% of these are Bachelor's passes.

Oakley House has a strong commitment to blended learning and all students are required to have their own Chromebook at school daily. These are variously used to meet special needs requirements, to promote learning, as a platform for e-books, and as a personal organisation device. Please contact the school for device details **before** making any purchases.

We view reports as record of past achievement but also as the basis for setting new directions. Detailed reports are emailed to parents at the end of each term. The Term 1 report comes with a class teacher comment, while the Term 2 and 3 reports come with comprehensive subject comments.

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- **Supervised Homework** – Oakley House High School offers supervised homework as follows:  
Mondays to Thursdays 15h00 - 16h00
- **Meridian** – Our lunchtime student enrichment programme that takes place in Utility period on Wednesdays. Meridian is a programme of regular clubs and *ad hoc* workshops, speakers, etc. The programme is voluntary but students are encouraged to sign up.
- **Supplementary Learning (SL)** – Grade 12's need extra time to complete practical assessment tasks (PATs) in a number of subjects. The sessions take place after school for one hour and are compulsory. Grade 12s are also required to attend a June holiday subject programme.
- **Sport** – Oakley House offers cross country from the school premises as part of the Western Province League. Students are otherwise welcome to participate in sport at the nearby Bergvliet High School that offers a wide range of sporting disciplines.

## SPECIALIST STAFF AND SUPPORT

All staff are SACE registered and carefully selected for their expertise and ability to understand our students. Staff receive training and support in teaching students with specific learning difficulties. Regular training sessions are conducted from our in-house specialist training centre that offers a range of accredited face-to-face and online courses geared towards inclusive education.

Various models of in-class facilitation are available for students needing even further individual assistance. To maintain standards, all facilitators are on the Oakley House staff. Facilitation is put in place by mutual agreement with parents and comes at additional cost.

We offer counselling sessions with our in-house registered counsellor to address the social, emotional and behavioural needs of our students. When necessary, we refer students off-campus for more specialised therapy. Fees and payments to referred providers is a private arrangement between therapist and parents.

Oakley House supports students' applications for the concessions relevant to their need. Concessions are offered for examinations and include extra time, scribing, reading, prompting, use of a computer, etc. Concession support (involving human readers/scribes/promoters) is provided at an extra cost. The mediation of Concession support is moving increasingly towards using technology, in line with moves by the WCED.



## SMALL CLASSES

Small classes are key to our successes with students. Small classes ensure individual attention and a caring and supportive environment. They enable teachers to work towards developing each student's strengths as well as guiding them in the use of compensatory strategies.

## HOMEWORK AND STRUCTURING OF WORK

Homework reinforces the work done in class, it alerts the teacher to work that is not fully understood, and it teaches independence and self-discipline, and it encourages retrieval, a factor known to support memory. Meaningful homework is an important part of educating the whole child. Attention is paid to overburdening students and no student is expected to do more than the daily stipulated maximum, provided they keep up with project work and assignments. Homework is posted online by staff. Parents are asked to support homework to the degree necessary.

Oakley House further assists students with structuring their time by breaking projects into smaller tasks with intermediate deadlines. A calendar of final deadlines is issued to students termly.

Tests are written on an ongoing basis. Test dates are published ahead of time in a termly test calendar. An examination booklet is issued to assist with exam preparation.

## LEADERSHIP

At Oakley House we believe in accountability, ownership and leadership as important life attributes and we have a number of structures promoting both personal and institutional leadership. Oakley House has a House system and House heads are appointed to assist in managing the House structure and organising events. Each class has a Class Representative to act as their mouthpiece and Class Representatives meet for fortnightly discussions. The Oakley body also elects one or two School Leaders annually who assist in the running of the school.

More informally, we regularly hold community awareness and outreach projects where students can show themselves as leaders capable of making a difference.

## MEDICATION

The normal procedure is for any necessary medication to be given by parents at home. However, arrangements can be made for special circumstances to prevail – as in the administering of Ritalin for example. Where it is agreed that medication is kept and administered at Oakley House High School, a relating schedule will be completed and signed by the administering staff member.

## UNIFORM

Oakley House High School students wear a comfortable uniform. Certain items are provided by the school, with the majority of items being available online through the school uniform provider. There is no summer and winter uniform; students can choose which items are the most comfortable.



## SNACKS AND LUNCHES

We believe that a student's diet influences their ability to concentrate effectively. Oakley House has a tuck shop that currently operates once a week at break. The tuck shop is run by our vocational stream students and endeavours to offer what we consider to be healthier options. Pre-orders are available.

Being high school, students are otherwise responsible for their own food choices but sugary foods and drinks are not permitted. Students are encouraged to have a bottle of water with them each day.

## DISCIPLINE AND RECOGNITION

It is essential that all students at Oakley House High School are made aware of the importance of good, well-mannered behaviour and we expect adherence to the standards that make our school a safe environment and one that is conducive for learning. A code of conduct is signed by students and parents on entry to the school and every effort is made to reinforce whatever school rules are in place at the time. The School subscribes to a corrective rather than punishment philosophy; it operates on systems of incentive/encouragement (Merit) and sanction (Alert/Reflection).

Generally speaking, we believe that giving proactive direction to prevent inappropriate behaviour is more desirable and effective than after-the-fact punishments. Students are taught that they have **control** over many things in life. There are however **consequences** where students choose not to respond to direction. The students are always encouraged to take **ownership** of their behaviour and to play a part in devising solutions to any problems that arise.

As part of our commitment to discipline and a safe environment, cellphones must be switched off and stashed during the school day, and we have limitations on device screen-time.

## STATIONERY

Parents are required to provide personal stationery items, required for school. A stationery list is available on enrolment.

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

The Oakley House High School calendar is similar to the WCED school calendar.



## SCHOOL HOURS

Monday to Thursday 07h50 - 14h45

Friday 07h50 - 13h00

Hours differ during exams.

The school gates normally open at 07h00 daily. Please note that there is no aftercare and parents are asked to collect their children as soon as possible after their day is finished.

## SCHOOL FEES

Please see the separate fees schedule for detail on fees and levies. If you refer to the fees schedule for the current calendar year, please allow for annual fees increases.

## NOTICE PERIOD

Should parents wish to withdraw their child from Oakley House High School, written notice must be given not later than the first week of the student's proposed final term, failing which the fees for the following term will be payable in full, whether or not the student returns to school.

*We reserve the right to make amendments to the prospectus from time to time, as and when the need arises.*

## Oakley House High School

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For further information about our Cape Town based School and Training & Support Centre, visit our website

[www.oakleyhouse.co.za](http://www.oakleyhouse.co.za)

