

Kirkwood Intermediate School – Blues Awards

The Blues awards at Kirkwood have been running since 2005. Since their beginning, they have been adapted to better reflect the goals and vision of our school. In this document, the criteria for cultural and academic awards have been altered and the sporting guidelines have remained the same. This is because sports are naturally competitive and it is more straightforward to allocate awards based on results.

Goals of the Blues awards

- Acknowledge the achievement and attainment of our students
- Acknowledge the depth and breadth of their attainment and achievement
- Acknowledge citizenship and students who display our school values (Year 8 only)
- Encourage students to strive
- Place a high value on 'In-school' achievement

It is the aim of the Blues committee to continually expand the guidelines below to ensure they meet the goals and aspirations of the Blues awards and school values. We are striving to make the system more flexible to better represent our students' achievements. If you feel we have missed anything, please get in contact and remember Blues awards can be awarded for any achievement approved by the Blues Committee.

Your application may be emailed to: Blues@kirkwood.school.nz

ACADEMIC

Producing excellent work in several in-school events will qualify students for a Blues Award.

- Winning in the school speech competition
- Winning the Year 8 debate competition
- Excellent work as part of a school extension program
- Receiving 4 awards in technology in Year 8.
- Winning/Placing school writing competition

In addition to these In-School events, students may gain a Blue by:

- A 1st, 2nd or 3rd placing in any Canterbury wide competition such as:
 - Cantamaths, Social Studies, Technology Challenge, Kids' Lit and any other school entered competition.
- A 1st, 2nd or 3rd placing or a special prize award in the Canterbury Science Fair.
- A distinction award in any external examination such as:
 - NSW Maths, English, Computer, Science, Writing.
- Obtaining an excellence certificate in the Otago Problem Solving Competition.
- Being a published writer in a national competition, e.g. NZ Poetry Society.
- Any other achievement approved by the Blues Committee.

CULTURAL

In-School Activities

- Being involved in any Town Hall festival 'special group' such as:
 - Recorder, choir, orchestra, concert band.
- Being acknowledged by the school Art Committee:
 - Two years of high quality work and commitment to the Art Cup.

Displaying a high level of talent, commitment and leadership in several in-school activities will qualify students for a Blues award.

- Rock band
- Kapa haka
- Choir
- Orchestra
- School Production

Out-of-School Activities

- By obtaining Grade 4 or better for an instrument by obtaining Grade 4 or better in any form of dance such as:
 - Ballet, Highland Dancing, Jazz.
- By obtaining a grade that reflects five years of achievement in dance that does not use a grading system, eg elementary level in Hip Hop.

Students may be involved in 'out of school' cultural activities that do not have a competitive structure, yet the student displays a high level of talent, for example a drama production. This activity may qualify students for a Blues award if they have met the required level of talent; merely being involved would not be enough. As a comparison, the school production involves over one hundred students, but only around ten receive a Blues award. In this case, a letter from a director stating the student displayed a high level of talent, commitment and leadership would be required to qualify for a Blue.

- Any other achievement approved by the Blues Committee.

SPORT

- A Sports Blue will be awarded to any pupil who:
 - Gains a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd placing at an Intermediate 'A' grade competition in individual or team events in any age group.
 - Gains a 1st, 2nd or 3rd in an 'A' grade or the top team for that age group in any sport at a Christchurch or district level. E.g. Ellesmere.
 - Any other sporting achievement approved by the Blues committee.
- A Bronze Sports Blue will be awarded to any pupil who:
 - Is selected to represent Canterbury in the top team for that age group in any sport.
 - Gains a 1st, 2nd or 3rd placing in the 'A' grade, or top grade for that age group, at a Canterbury wide championship competition in any age group.
- A Silver Sports Blue will be awarded to any pupil who:
 - Is selected to represent the South Island in any sport.
 - Gains a 1st, 2nd or 3rd placing in the 'A' grade, or top grade for that age group, at a South Island wide championship competition in any age group.
- A Gold Sports Blue will be awarded to any pupil who:
 - Is selected to represent New Zealand in any sport.
 - Gains a 1st, 2nd or 3rd placing in the 'A' grade, or top grade for that age group, at a New Zealand wide championship competition in any age group.

Once a student has received a Blue in a particular sport they may only receive a subsequent Blue in that same sport if the achievement is at a higher level. For example, if a student places in the Christchurch School Athletics competition they will be awarded an Athletics Blue. Gaining an Athletics Blue in Year 7 means a student will be unable to get an award in Year 8 if they produce the same results. However, if that student places at a South Island championship in Year 8 they will be eligible for a Silver Athletics Blue.

Pupils can receive Blues in more than one sport. For example a student could gain a blue in each of Rugby, Touch rugby and Rugby Sevens.

Pupils can only be awarded a Blue if they obtained the achievement whilst enrolled at Kirkwood Intermediate School.

Citizenship Blues

Citizenship Blues will be awarded at the end of Year 8 to students who have displayed leadership and behaviour in keeping with the School Values. These Blues are outside the existing three categories and will not affect All-round Elite Blues. The criteria for these awards will be the same as the criteria for the Citizenship Cup.

OUTSTANDING ELITE BLUE AWARD

This award will be given to any pupil who has achieved an Academic, Cultural and a Sporting Blue.

- ↳ **There is no set limit on the number of awards a pupil can gain in a year.**
- ↳ **Blues will be awarded at Blues Assemblies which are held at the end of Terms 2, 3 and 4.**
- ↳ **Parents will be informed and may have the opportunity to attend the Blues Assembly.**