



# Merensky High School

## School History

Though Merensky High School's roots may go back to 1936, it had developed into an agricultural school with 500 pupils by 1961. The school was officially christened Merensky High School in 1976. In 1984 it became a dual-medium school. A fig tree is prominent in the school's coat of arms. It is a Biblical symbol (usually a reference to good fruit that is borne of true faith), but it also literally refers to the place of assembly for early students at the school. That is, the first school hall was beneath a fig tree. Other symbols on the coat of arms are the bee, representing hard work, and the oranges, symbolic of the Lowveld where enormous citrus farms are found. The school boasts excellent facilities, with a large conference centre and an excellent gym. Merensky has over 1 000 pupils. Its current headmaster is Mr JP van den Heever.



FOUNDED: 1961

MOTTO: LABOUR ET CONSERVA

ADDRESS: MAIN ROAD (BETWEEN  
TZANEEN AND MODJADJISKLOOF)

[WWW.HSMERENSKY.CO.ZA](http://WWW.HSMERENSKY.CO.ZA)





## Rugby at Merensky

Although Merensky is proud of its Protea cricketer Dale Steyn, it also has an excellent rugby record and history. In 1988 the First rugby team reached the semi-finals of the prestigious Director's Trophy, but lost in the finals. 2006 was a particularly good year. Five Merensky rugby sides were crowned Limpopo winners that year, and Barry Landman's First XV drew in the final of the Beeld Trophy to share the prestigious Cup. Landman now plays for the Cheetahs, having been contracted directly after school. He is the son of Christie, a Merensky Old Boy who played provincial rugby for Northern Transvaal in 1980-81. He is a prominent citrus farmer in the area and remains involved with the school. Jacques Bischoff is another Old Boy who played for Northern Transvaal in 1994-95. The school's contribution to rugby is clear from the many Merensky boys making up Craven Week and other representative sides in 2007. 25 boys gained provincial representation across all age groups.

*"In 2006 we travelled as far as Albertyn and Overkruijn to play matches. We had a quarter-final fixture for the Beeld trophy on one weekend, and a semi-final the weekend after. As it was September and we were writing matric exams during that week, we had a teacher join us for the trip, so that we could sit for the exam in Pretoria. The academic constraints didn't seem to affect us on the pitch as we returned having won both games."*

**— Barry Landman (2006, now at Cheetahs)**

*"It's incredible how Merensky has grown its rugby in recent years, from playing in the C league a few years ago, to playing regularly in the Super16 in 2007 against the likes of Waterkloof and Ermelo. Blue Bulls coaches and many others have travelled to Merensky to assist, and I think there has been a general mindset shift at the school — the self-belief that has been cultivated is now producing results."*

**— Janet Landman (Mother of Barry Landman)**