SELECTIVE ENTRY AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
2020

Merrimac State High School
Gold Coast, Australia
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OUR PHILOSOPHY & VALUES

Respect
Responsibility
Reliability
Merrimac State High School, established in 1979, welcomed Year 7 students and their families for the first time in 2015. We operate as one school with both junior and senior phases of secondary education and cater for the academic, cultural, sporting and social endeavours of 1,500 students from ages 12 to 17. This builds on a strong community reputation as offering high quality academic programs with clear pathways to university and employment opportunities, made possible by industry and community partnerships. A platform of school tradition brings recognition and celebration to each student as they make their way through the school, from Year 7 Induction to Year 12 Graduation.

**PHILOSOPHY**

Merrimac State High School’s community strives to build positive relationships, value differences, encourage life-long learning and contribute to the school, family and wider community.

We believe that education is a shared responsibility. We promote a spirit of co-operation and belonging amongst students, staff, parents, carers and the community. We aim to prepare our students for life as literate, informed, skilled, happy, responsible and caring individuals who are encouraged through their endeavours to take “Pride in Excellence”.

We are committed to motivate students to continue learning, contribute positively to their families and communities and gain fulfilment in their lives by embracing all challenges that life presents.

**OUR SCHOOL VALUES**

We stand for Respect, Responsibility and Reliability.

There is a strong belief that everyone has the right to be respected and the responsibility to respect themselves, others and property. It is expected that all members of the Merrimac community are reliable in their commitment to ensuring that their actions have only a positive influence on all. To ensure students and staff can achieve their best within a safe and caring environment, school values have been developed and are exemplified by all members of our school community.

The 3 Rs of: Respect, Responsibility and Reliability are embedded in our whole school approach to managing student behaviour.
Entry into our programs is by a Selective Entry Application. All students will need to provide a portfolio that includes:

- Completed school Enrolment Application which includes 2 past reports and NAPLAN results
- Completed Selective Entry Application form
- Completed Selective Entry Student Agreement contract
- A maximum one page outlining why you believe you should receive a place in the program of your choice
- Other evidence of achievement that could include competition achievements and representative teams (regional, state, national)

In addition to the portfolio an audition for Selective Entry into Dance will also be required.

Applications can be submitted to the Office Administration during business hours. No applications will be assessed without all portfolio documentation. Upon completion of the selection process, staff and specialist teachers will decide on the suitability of each applicant. Once all applications have been processed, applicants will be notified by email of their result.

An annual fee in addition to the school resource scheme fee is payable upon acceptance into a program and each subsequent year that the student is part of a program. The fee for 2020 is $100 per program. Student Resource Scheme and Program fees must be paid prior to the commencement of the school year. If the fees are not paid by the due date this will be taken to indicate the student no longer wishes to participate in the program. Should the student not maintain the standards of the program their participation in the program will be reviewed and entrance fees forfeited.
The Merrimac scholarship program is an initiative of the Parents and Citizens Association (P&C). Each year scholarships are offered to Year 6 students for Academic Summit, STEAM Academy, Sport Summit and Dance Summit Programs initially for 1 year in Year 7 with ongoing reviews. Scholarships are awarded to the very best students who have been successful in their selective entry into these programs. The successful students will be notified by email of their scholarship.

**ABOUT OUR SCHOLARSHIPS**

Students awarded a scholarship will receive:
- Annual Student Resource Scheme Fee Paid
- Formal School Uniform (1) in Junior School, (1) in Senior School
- Scholarship Badge

Scholarships can be given by the Principal to an outstanding student with special skills or abilities that the school values as a member of our selective program.

At the time of granting the scholarship the Principal will identify the criteria for the ongoing payment of one year. Scholarships are reviewed annually.

**ANNUAL REVIEW OF SCHOLARSHIPS**

Only the previous years scholarship recipients will be eligible for a review of their performance.

Academic Summit and STEAM Academy students must achieve the following subject results:

Year 7, 8 & 9 – Successfully completing 8 subjects achieving a minimum of 6A’s, 1B & 1C
Year 10, 11 & 12 – Successfully completing 6 subjects achieving a minimum of 4A’s, 1B & 1C

Sport Summit students must continue to excel in their chosen sport/s and achieve academically at school as well as participate at district, regional, state and international levels to be eligible.

In addition to specific standards for each program the students will also have demonstrated a high standard of effort, behaviour and attendance in all subjects and within the school and wider community.

Families will be notified about their student’s scholarship success at the beginning of each year.

At the Principal’s discretion, scholarships may also be awarded to Merrimac students who achieve outstanding results during a full calendar year.
STEAM ACADEMY

➢ STUDENTS IN THE STEAM ACADEMY WILL BE ABLE TO:

✓ Evaluate solutions in relation to elements of a problem
✓ Draw conclusions and make recommendation based on investigations
✓ Organise and present information in modes relevant to the situation – mathematical, written, graphical, oral, multi-media or by modelling
✓ Demonstrate literacy through appropriate technical literacy forms - technical vocabulary, symbolic, graphical and research and reporting techniques
✓ Understand the value of cooperation, consultation, perseverance and responsibility in problem solving and learning

➢ PARTICIPATION

Students participating in the STEAM Academy will be reassessed annually for three years (up to the end of Year 9), with a formal review process to ensure students are meeting the expectations of the program.

Through the accelerated learning approach, students will have the opportunity to undertake one or more university subjects by the time they reach Year 12. In this program, students will participate in learning experiences designed to;

✓ Develop thinking, enquiry and problem-solving skills
✓ Enhance their ability to work at both the abstract and creative levels
✓ Promote team work and communication skills
STEAM (Science, Technology, Enterprise, the Arts and Mathematics) education and skills development play an important role in our educational vision for the future. Fostering education in these areas ensures that today’s students can generate and test new ideas and contribute to the scientific developments and innovations of tomorrow. Increasing society’s capacity in this area will also contribute to job creation and provide solutions to social concerns such as medical, environmental and engineering breakthroughs. Authentic learning is an important foundation of the STEAM Academy and is enhanced by links with industry and tertiary partners; these real-life contexts will assist students with career choices.

The shift to, and emphasis on collaborative learning and creativity will best prepare these students for success in the 21st century.
TEACHING STAFF

Experienced and talented academy staff will utilise a wide range of teaching methods incorporating both traditional and online learning techniques. They will provide new and challenging educational opportunities centred on inquiry learning to develop students’ personal organisation and critical analysis. The Merrimac SHS STEAM Academy has staff experienced in engineering, computer programming and electronics. We have an existing partnership with Griffith University and links to the Gold Coast Tech Space group which is a local Makerspace group. Teachers provide a supportive environment which develops student confidence and fosters a love of learning. Each individual student in the STEAM Academy can achieve his/her potential.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

The STEAM Academy (Science, Technology, Enterprise, the Arts and Mathematics) will be collaborative, challenging, innovative, and student-focused. The STEAM concept provides students with opportunities to build on their knowledge and understanding by allowing them to design, develop and evaluate their own solutions in a project-based learning environment. This type of learning promotes higher order thinking and allows the merger of design technologies digital technologies and emphasizing principles with Information Technology, Mathematics and Science in problem-solving. Robotics and ICT resources will also be integrated into this academic and technology focused teaching and learning program.

Our STEAM Academy students will continue to compete in Engineering, Robotics and Science Challenges, and receive teaching and co-curricular opportunities which develop their creativity, higher order thinking and entrepreneurship.
MAKERSPACE

Our specialised Makerspace offers students unique learning experiences by providing industry standard manufacturing tools. It is a space open to students during, before and after class time to create, design and build their own projects. 3D printers, 3D Scanner, CNC milling machines, soldering stations, robotics kits and Virtual Reality development tools are just some of the technologies available for use in our Makerspace. The Makerspace transforms learning from a traditional theoretical approach to an innovative, interactive experience while students learn 21st century skills.
PROGRAMMING

Programming of Year 7 subjects in the STEAM Academy is based on a broad curriculum framework which focuses on the academic learning areas of Mathematics, English, Science and SOSE. Integral to the STEAM Academy curriculum is the inclusion of additional, specialised subjects and activities which will develop student intellectual and creative abilities. Critical thinking is one such subject and involves determining the meaning and significance of what is observed or expressed and determining whether there is adequate justification to accept conclusions as true.

An indicative Year 7 STEAM Academy timetable involves;

- Extension English
- Extension Science
- Critical Thinking/Robotics & Coding
- Music
- Inter-school Sport
- Extension Mathematics
- History
- Mandarin (LOTE)
- HPE
The STEAM Academy seeks to maximise the deep learning opportunities for students and accelerate their learning. Students will be supported and encouraged to participate in a variety of extra-curricular challenges to test their skills against their peers and gain experience in applying their knowledge and skills in new and different settings. Learning experiences will continually promote leadership, self-confidence and problem-solving.

Merrimac State High School and the STEAM Academy teachers constantly strive for optimum performance and therefore, have high expectations of students gaining a place in this program. Student behaviour and progress will be closely monitored with regular academic reviews.

To ensure they are allowed to continue in the STEAM Academy, students are required to achieve A’s and B’s across all subjects, maintain a strong work ethic and demonstrate good behaviour.

“STEAM represents a paradigm shift from traditional education philosophy, based on standardized test scores, to a modern ideal which focuses on valuing the learning process as much as the results. In essence, we dare our students to be wrong, to try multiple ideas, listen to alternate opinions and create a knowledge base that is applicable to real life as opposed to simply an exam.”

- Deron Cameron, Director of HR Principal/Teacher STEAM The Leader in Me PBL

An annual fee in addition to the school resource scheme fee is payable upon acceptance into a program and each subsequent year that the student is part of a program. The fee for 2020 is $100 per program. Student Resource Scheme and Program fees must be paid prior to the commencement of the school year.
PARTICIPATION

Students participating in Academic Summit will be reassessed annually for three years (up to the end of Year 9), with a formal review process to ensure students are meeting the expectations of the program.

Through the accelerated learning approach, students will have the opportunity to undertake one or more university subjects by the time they reach Year 12. In this program, students will participate in learning experiences designed to:-

✓ Develop thinking, enquiry and problem solving skills
✓ Enhance their ability to work at both the abstract and creative levels
✓ Promote team work and communication skills

The shift to, and emphasis on collaborative learning and creativity will best prepare these students for success in the 21st century.

TEACHING STAFF

Teaching Staff will utilise a wide range of teaching methods incorporating both traditional and online learning techniques. They will strive to provide new and challenging educational opportunities centred on inquiry learning to develop personal organisation and critical analysis. Teachers provide a supportive environment which develops student confidence and fosters a love of learning so each individual can achieve their true potential. Merrimac State High School and the Summit teachers constantly strive for optimum performance and therefore, have high expectations of students gaining a place in this program.
Programming of Year 7 subjects is based on a broad curriculum framework which focuses on the academic learning areas of Mathematics, English, Science and SOSE. Integral to the Academic Summit curriculum is the inclusion of additional, specialised subjects and activities which will develop student intellectual and creative abilities. Critical thinking is one such subject and involves determining the meaning and significance of what is observed or expressed and determining whether there is adequate justification to accept conclusions as true. Individual laptop computers will enable the learning for Academic Summit students to be more individualised and also provide access to teachers and resources outside of normal school hours. Engagement in online learning will be an integral part of this academic program. An indicative Year 7 student timetable involves:

- English
- Science
- Critical Thinking / Entrepreneurial Studies
- Music
- Interschool Sport
- Mathematics
- History
- LOTE (Mandarin)
- HPE

Learning activities over the three year course are based on the Australian Curriculum P-10 recommendations. Participants are provided with an enriching curriculum which is differentiated by the pace, level and degree of abstraction. The use of scholastic testing will assist in determining the appropriate entry level for students to commence their study in the specific subjects. Activities which deal with language and mathematical processes will develop each student’s ability to analyse and synthesise information. Those which promote creativity, imagination and intuition will further develop each student’s higher order thinking and problem-solving skills.

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TEACHING STAFF

Staff will provide students with up-to-date health, fitness and performance methods. They will strive to provide new and challenging opportunities to build confidence and an attitude in students which will have them questioning how far they can push the limits of what they currently do and how fast they can accelerate the rate of change in their sport to achieve peak performance.

KEY AIMS

 ✓ Assist students to set clear achievable goals with a whole-life approach to fitness and performance
 ✓ Provide a motivating and encouraging environment where students can train and grow through positive change
 ✓ Develop attitudes and values which will inspire students to achieve their aspirations
 ✓ Treat each student as an individual and enhance their physical, social and mental capacities
 ✓ Complement each student’s current coaching from their club sport
Is your sporting career on the right pathway for success? Will you reach the top in your sport? No matter what your sport - Rugby League, Soccer, AFL, Netball, Swimming or Triathlon - natural ability will only take you so far. Sport Summit is about developing an attitude and mindset to do the extra that others choose not to. Students will participate in a wide variety of physical performance activities designed to promote improvement of specific physical / mental capacities and attributes, test and improve personal fitness levels and build team work and communication skills.

**PARTICIPATION**

Students participating in the *Sport Summit* program will be reassessed annually for three years (up to the end of Year 9), with a formal review process to ensure students are meeting the expectations of the program. Students will participate in a wide variety of physical performance activities designed to:

- Promote improvement of specific physical/mental capacities and attributes
- Test and improve personal fitness levels
- Build team work and communication skills

Physical performance activities will utilise facilities within the school and the local community in order to provide exciting challenges for students. Key theoretical concepts relating to exercise science, biomechanics, sports psychology and sports nutrition will be incorporated into the physical performance activities to promote understanding about why things are done in specific ways to optimise peak performance.

Programming of subjects and time allocation for students will provide a significant amount of time for students to accelerate their athletic development. High Performance Sport - 3 to 4 hours/week.

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ACTIVITIES

Activities over the three year course will cover a wide range of topics to provide students with a total sports education. Some topics such as personalised fitness training, mental skills training, sports nutrition, attitude and goal setting will be central themes each year, while other topics will be incorporated into the program at appropriate times. Where appropriate, ‘experts’ from community sporting organisations and institutions will be utilised to provide the most up-to-date knowledge and learning experiences from students.

- Team building activities
- Fitness training
- Mental skills training
- Sports nutrition/hydration
- Injury management
- Public speaking/media skills
- Benchmark fitness testing
- Exercise science/energy systems
- Goal setting/attitude
- Biomechanics/technique analysis
- Physical attribute development
- Sports drugs/alcohol education
- Campus/excursions
- Social issues/codes of conduct
- Cross sport skill development

Sport Summit seeks to maximise the opportunities for students to test their skills against their peers in interschool and club competitions wherever possible. Students will be encouraged to participate in not only their specific sport competitions but also join with fellow students to compete in sports which relate to their personal sport. This will serve to provide additional competition experience and assist in accelerating change in physical and mental skill performance.

FUTURE SUCCESS

Future success is individually determined and for talented athletes, no matter what their sport, this program will give students every opportunity to push through current boundaries and reach the summit of their sport. To ensure they are allowed to continue in the Summit program, students are expected to achieve A or B in HPS and at least C in all other subjects, maintain a strong work ethic and demonstrate good behaviour.

“The Merrimac SHS program will give students a great head start into the exciting world of sport. I am lucky and privileged to have had the opportunity to represent my country as an elite athlete, and now as coach, at an Olympic games level, but never had access to such an exciting sporting program in my schooling years. With access to this type of opportunity, the sky is the limit for all who choose to tackle this exciting new program.”

Craig Walton - Olympic Triathlete
TEACHING STAFF

Dance Summit, is a program taught by a trained, specialist Dance Teacher, who was also involved in the National Aerobics Competition in 2017 and took home a Gold Medal. In our specially designed Dance Studio that was only build back in 2014, students in the Summit Program have access to a fantastic air conditioned studio with change rooms and lockers. Our program is not only designed to help students excel in all facets of dance, our Teachers also offer support to our students with other subjects when needed. Our Teachers participate regularly in programs and classes to keep up to date on all facets of dance, and this is reflected in the high quality of learning that is being delivered by our teachers.
Selective Entry Dance will engage students in a dynamic course that focuses upon practical activities that relate to the Dance industry and will consequently develop a strong technical foundation covering a broad spectrum of dance. Students will be challenged and motivated to increase flexibility, technique and musicality. The program has an increased emphasis on choreographic skills, industry awareness and professionalism. Students will have the option to attend workshops with renowned choreographers throughout the year leading to further dance study and employment opportunities.

**KEY AIMS**

- Develop kinesthetic intelligence
- Understand the world around us, explore emotive/social issues, subject matter and culture
- Improve analytical thinking, clarity in written and spoken expression, collaboration and creativity
- Create opportunities for self-expression and communication
- Teach the values and skills of creativity, problem solving, risk taking and making judgments
- Foster individual’s ability to better interpret interpersonal nonverbal communication
- Develop an understanding and respect for dances of other cultures
- Prepare students for careers in dance and other fields
- Assist individuals to understand their limitations and strengths to better cope with adversity
- Extend individuals beyond current capabilities
- Develop physical fitness, appreciation of the body, concern for sound health practices and effective stress management approaches

**DANCE OPPORTUNITIES**

- Participation in a Three Year program of extended and specialised training
- Participation in competitions such as Starbound and Gold Coast Eisteddfod
- Performing at events such as Dance Week, Creative Generation, Education week, Musicals and Dance Ed in the Spotlight
- Participation in workshops on and off campus with industry professionals
- Industry partnerships
- Extend students ability above and beyond any standard curriculum dance program
- Joining the Merrimac High Dance Troupe

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LEADERSHIP

➡️ TEACHING STAFF

The Leadership program at Merrimac SHS is mentored by year level Deans and overseen by the HOD student Leadership and Wellbeing. It focuses on developing the fundamental leadership skills necessary to effectively influence their peers and illicit a positive change across the wider school community. Deans are responsible for transitioning students from Year 7 to Year 12, and provide opportunities for student leaders to collaborate with their peers from all year levels, develop communicative skills and build self-confidence.

➡️ KEY AIMS

- Consider the needs of others before their own.
- Acknowledge different perspectives.
- Build a strong sense of community.
- Are involved in a range of extra-curricular activities which reflect a commitment to serving their community.
- Demonstrate effective time management skills.
- Maintain a sound academic base.
- Model a positive attitude and pride in our school, reflecting the school values of respect, responsibility and reliability.
Selective Entry Leadership Program will engage and encourage students to participate in the varied leadership opportunities available in both the Junior Secondary and Senior Secondary School. It is expected that student leaders uphold a culture of service to others by being aware of their community needs, modelling an attitude that it positive and proactive, and being committed to enact positive change through their actions. Our student leaders understand their social responsibility and are encouraged to volunteer in the wider community and participate in service – learning programs at school. It is expected that nominated leaders model exemplary behavior and uphold our school values of Respect, Responsibility and Reliability to the highest degree.

**LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

- School Captains, Prefects and Sports Captains
- Phoenix Captains
- Junior School Captains
- International Mentor Program Ambassador
- Peer Mentors
- Community Initiative Leader – You Can Sit With Me
- Indigenous Student Leader
- Senior International Leader
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Student Council Executive team
- Leos Executive team

**FUTURE SUCCESS**

Through our student leadership approach of servicing others, we aim to foster a strong culture of community awareness. Our students are encouraged to be the voice and the action for change in modern society. Our goal is to support all students to become successful, healthy and happy contributing members of our community, where our core values of respect, responsibility and reliability are reflected in their daily lives.

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Respect
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