



MARIST COLLEGE NORTH SHORE

270 MILLER STREET, NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2060 P: 9957 5000 E: northshore@maristcollege.com
www.maristcollege.com

14 October 2020

RE: 2021 Year 9 Newman Class

Dear Parents/Guardians,

During Term 4 we will be identifying students for the 2021 Year 9 Newman Selective Gifted Education class. This identification process will include all students in Year 8 at the College. It is important that we are fair, equitable and comprehensive in our identification process. In order to be equitable we need to identify students who have demonstrated potential giftedness after the initial screening at the commencement of Year 7 in 2019.

The students in the 2021 Year 9 Newman class will be clustered based on like ability in their core subjects. The elective classes won't be included in the Newman Selective Gifted Education Program however, appropriate differentiation will be provided for all students. Mathematics will not be part of the Newman Program as students will be placed in Mathematics classes (5.3, 5.2 and 5.1) based on their achievement (rank) at the end of Year 8.

We will be analysing data from multiple sources to identify students who are potentially gifted for the 2021 Year 9 Newman class.

Identification data sources for the 2021 Year 9 Newman Program:

- 2018 Allwell Test (for baseline data)
- 2019 Year 7 NAPLAN
- 2020 Year 8 Semester 2 school report
- Teacher nominations
- Parent/caregiver nomination - provided with this letter. Please complete the survey by Monday 30 November 2020
- Self nomination - a survey will be shared to all Year 8 students. They are invited to write a letter outlining their reasons for their nomination for the Newman Program. The survey/letter needs to be submitted to Ms O'Brien by Monday 30 November 2020

The current Year 8 Newman class is not fixed and movement into a mixed ability class may occur in 2021 if students do not meet the identification benchmarks. The Year 8 Newman Selective Gifted Education class have had the opportunity to experience quality differentiation and enrichment opportunities for the past two years. The students have had the opportunity to set goals and learn from mistakes to reestablish strategies to improve. The Identification Committee will also assess each student's openness to our school wide pedagogy Dare to Be where they are Challenged, Engaged, Deep Thinkers and Relational (being respectful to their learning and the learning of others).

According to Francois Gagné in his Differentiated Model of Giftedness and Talent:

Giftedness designates the possession and use of untrained and spontaneously expressed outstanding natural abilities or aptitudes (called gifts), in at least one ability domain, to a degree that places an individual at least among the top 10% of age peers.

The Allwell Test (2018) will identify initial benchmarks for potential giftedness. Teachers have received professional learning in identifying giftedness and will provide their nominations for identified students as part of the identification process. Psychological testing for IQ levels will also be accepted to determine giftedness.

Talent designates the outstanding mastery of systematically developed competencies (knowledge and skills) in at least one field of human activity to a degree that places an individual at least among the top 10% of 'learning peers' (those who have accumulated a similar amount of learning time from either current or past training) (Gagné, 2010, p. 82).

The Year 7 NAPLAN results and the 2019 Semester 2 school report will reveal talent through their achievement in a range of subjects.

Francois Gagné's definition of giftedness and talent is the accepted definition by following:

- Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA)
- NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA)
- Sydney Catholic Schools Gifted Education Policy (2015)

Our aim is to provide appropriate learning opportunities that meet the needs of all students including our gifted students for their self efficacy and well being. Parents will be informed if their son is in the Newman Selective Gifted Education Program by Thursday 10 December 2020.

If you have any questions about the identification process or the Newman Selective Gifted Education Program please contact Carolyn O'Brien at the College: 9957 5000 or Carolyn.Obrien@syd.catholic.edu.au

Attachments

Parent Nomination Survey - [link](#)

Parent Nomination Form - [link](#)

Please complete by Monday 30 November 2020.

Yours sincerely,



Carolyn O'Brien
Director of Diverse Learning



Brigid Taylor
Acting Principal