

Vision

Statement

Vision Statement

St Mark's Coptic Orthodox College is a school that works in partnership with parents to create an atmosphere where Christian values and Coptic Orthodox tradition are the foundation of the school's practices and where students and staff feel secure and supported by all members of the school community.

The distinctive, sincere and continuous practice of Christian love, service and humility provides students with the opportunity to develop and display a high moral standard.

Our students are challenged to strive to achieve excellence and success in all areas of the curriculum by attaining their full potential, having confidence in who they are as Christian individuals and becoming active participants in Church and the Australian community.

Belief

Statements

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We Believe that St Mark's College is a learning community where...

Students...



Experience God

...by engaging in Coptic culture, prayer, liturgy, rites and fasting
...through interactions within the College community



Achieve their optimal results

...through the healthy development of their self-esteem
...by seeking and receiving assistance
...by developing their curiosity and love of learning
...through dedicated effort, perseverance, support and recognition



Work cooperatively

...through teamwork, class discussions, caring for one another and
being part of the College Community
...with the staff valuing and respecting them



Expect quality teaching

...from qualified, motivated and committed teachers



Learn respect for others

...through the application of Christian values
...by learning about other cultures and religions from a Coptic
Orthodox point of view
...by being involved in outreach programs



Are respected

...by other students, teachers and parents



Enjoy College life

...through a friendly, safe and welcoming environment

...through a curriculum that is challenging and stimulating



Appreciate their culture/heritage

...through the study of history

...through church liturgy and Coptic Orthodox spiritual life

...through Coptic Orthodox Studies

...by sharing their culture, heritage and faith with others



Learn to make choices

...through exercising personal responsibility

...through cooperative learning classrooms



Have opportunities to succeed

...by exposure to a range of subjects, learning experiences and activities



Learn to care for God's creation

...through their studies

...by applying Christian values

...by developing their curiosity

...by caring for College property/grounds



Become active members of the community

...by taking part in voluntary programs

...through involvement in church

...by being prepared to witness the faith in the wider community

Belief Statements

We Believe that St Mark's College is a learning community where...

Teachers...



Are well planned and organised

- ...through knowledge of the subject matter
- ...through commitment to motivating students



Are good communicators

- ...through the rapport developed with students
- ...through the development, implementation and constant improvement of methods of providing feedback to students, parents and the College leadership team
- ...by working to ensuring students have “learned” not just been “taught”
- ...by being able to get their message across to meet the needs of individual students



Are committed to their own education

- ...by engaging in professional development
- ...by embracing and passing on appropriate new initiatives in teaching practice



Ensure that students programs are up to date

- ...through inservices
- ...through Board of Studies information



Are fair and just with students

- ...by exercising effective student management
- ...by giving every student a chance
- ...by showing patience and tolerance
- ...by being culturally sensitive



Earn the respect of students

- ...by modeling Christian Values
- ...by modeling respect towards students, parents, visitors and fellow staff
- ...by acting professionally at all times
- ...by demonstrating good teaching
- ...by caring for student welfare and learning
- ...by dressing modestly to suit College culture



Show care and concern for students

- ...by developing an atmosphere of trust
- ...by providing encouragement and hope
- ...by demonstrating an interest in students
- ...by managing conflict appropriately



Build the self esteem of students

- ...through well deserved praise
- ...through positive reinforcement
- ...by providing opportunities for students to take responsibility for their own behaviour and learning



Communicate effectively with parents

- ...through the reporting process
- ...by informing them quickly about issues of behaviour and learning difficulties
- ...through the homework program



Engage in ongoing professional evaluation

- ...through ongoing supervision of classroom practice
- ...through ongoing monitoring and mentorship of teaching performance
- ...by the implementation of a personal professional development plan



Are good managers

- ...by planning, prioritising, leading and controlling



Respect other cultures and beliefs

- ...by showing respect
- ...by encouraging students to learn about and understand other cultures
- ...by modeling respect for people of other cultures



Accept direction and guidance

- ...by being willing to work within the College and Church authority

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We Believe that St Mark's College is a learning community where...

Parents...

Are involved in their student's schoolwork

- ...through regular communication with teachers
- ...by supervising their children's work at home
- ...by monitoring achievement and behaviour

Work in partnership with the College

- ...by engaging in College activities
- ...through active membership of the P&F
- ...through participation in educational assistance programs
- ...by sharing in the decision making of the College
- ...by contributing to College fundraising

Are supportive of the College

- ...by providing a positive point of view
- ...by showing an understanding of the College
 - ...by volunteering their time, energy, expertise and enthusiasm to support the College programs
- ...by sharing their goodwill and entrusting their children to the College
- ...by promoting the College to others

Encourage their children to embrace College ethos

- ...by explaining the importance of College rules
- ...by supporting the consequences of breaking the rules
- ...by taking the College's point of view



Support the teachers

- ...by not talking negatively about the teacher/College in front of their children
- ...by encouraging students to express concerns through the appropriate College procedures
- ...by discussing issues of concern with the teacher or the College leaders



Support their children's learning

- ...by understanding school procedures
- ...by being interested and involved with the College
- ...by addressing students' complaints with the College leaders



Encourage their children to be closer to God

- ...by praying and studying the Bible together
- ...by going to church together
- ...by encouraging their child's participation in the College spiritual program
- ...by instilling and modelling Christian Values



Provide their children with a good study environment

- ...by providing adequate resource materials in the home
- ...by providing a peaceful supportive atmosphere at home
- ...by encouraging a habit of study
- ...by modelling good practices



Feel a sense of thankfulness, appreciation and joy

- ...through their children's achievements
- ...by seeing the College develop and grow

Belief Statements

We Believe that St Mark's College is a learning community where...

The Curriculum...



Is focused on Coptic Orthodox beliefs

- ...by giving prominence to the study of religion, faith practice and liturgy
- ...by integrating Gospel Values and Coptic beliefs and traditions in all subjects and classroom practices



Meets NSW Board of Studies requirements

- ...by providing students with the correct programs and activities
- ...by applying authentic assessment and recording procedures
- ...by implementing the outcomes specified in syllabus documents
- ...by applying an outcomes approach to teaching and learning



Is relevant to the students needs and stage of development

- ...by being focused on outcomes
- ...by catering for the interests and backgrounds of the students
- ...by being based on effective diagnostic procedures
- ...by setting clear expectations



Caters for individual needs

- ...by providing a wide range of resources
- ...by providing for a wide range of learning opportunities and experiences
- ...by providing programs that enable all students to nurture their talents
- ...by providing additional support for students with special needs



Prepares students to be independent and actively involved citizens on the local, national and global level

- ...by encouraging the development of responsibility
- ...by developing independent learning/thinking skills

- ...by inter-relating with other schools
- ...by being involved with independent community service organisations



Aims for excellence in all students

- ...by providing quality programs
- ...by ensuring quality teaching and learning
- ...by providing academic rigour in all activities
- ...by continued training and development of teachers
- ...by challenging students to achieve their best
- ...by developing study techniques and skills
- ...through the practice of appropriate classroom techniques



Encourages the personal development of students

- ...through an holistic approach
- ...by setting personal goals with the guidance of a mentor
- ...by catering for individual needs
- ...by encouraging students to participate in extra-curricular activities

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We Believe that St Mark's College is a learning community where...

The Church...

Inspires the College

- ...by providing the context for the College's existence
- ...through the application of church mission
- ...through the provision of governance
- ...through the work of the clergy

Is actively involved in the College

- ...through the role of the Director
- ...through the involvement of the clergy
- ...through the development of College policy

Supervises the work of the College

- ...through the role of the Director
- ...through the role of the College Committee
- ...through the process of review and appraisal
- ...through effective management
- ...through strategic planning


Sets Values and expectations

- ...through the modelling of the clergy
 - ...through the role of the Director in guiding and overseeing the development of College policy
- ...by encouraging and supporting staff to see their role as part of church mission

Supports the College

- ...through prayers

- ...through moral support and encouragement
- ...through encouraging unity with the Coptic community
- ...by encouraging financial support
- ...by encouraging the faithful to send their children to the College

 **Encourages the development and nurturing of the next generation of church and community leaders**

- ...through the active involvement of the clergy in the College
- ...by visits of the church hierarchy
- ...by providing role models
- ...by appreciation and utilisation of students' enthusiasm and talents

 **Models Christian life**

- ...through sacraments
- ...through Religious Education
- ...through ministry
- ...through evangelism
- ...through mentorship
- ...by providing opportunities and encouragement to serve

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We Believe that St Mark's College is a learning community where...

College Organisation And Administration...



Develops and implements clearly defined College policy
...through appropriate decision making processes
...by the appropriate allocation of roles and responsibilities to staff



Displays a Christian image to all people
...by providing a friendly and welcoming first point of contact
...by implementing processes that enhance the College vision in the day to day operation of the College



Exercises stewardship
...by ensuring the provision of adequate facilities and resources
...by implementing effective processes for the care and maintenance of facilities



Provides effective staff support services
...by establishing and implementing staff guidelines
...by implementing effective staff monitoring and appraisal procedures
...by applying efficient human resource management and training processes
...by providing pastoral support and guidance to staff

Manages information

- ...by developing and maintaining efficient records of student achievement
- ...by maintaining efficient staff records
- ...by ensuring security and confidentiality of student, family and personnel information
- ...through regular and effective reporting to parents

Provides effective curriculum development and supervision

- ...through the application of Board of Studies syllabus expectations
- ...by effectively monitoring teaching practice
- ...by effectively monitoring student achievement

Provides sound financial management

- ...through efficient cash management processes
- ...through efficient fees collection procedures
- ...through effective budgeting and resource planning
- ...through efficient ordering and expenditure accountability procedures

Ensures effective communication with parents and the wider community

- ...through effective verbal and written communication with parents in both languages
- ...through College publications, e.g. College Newsletter, Spring of Love

Ensures that staff selection processes are fair and transparent

- ...by ensuring equal opportunity for all
- ...by ensuring that all staff support the College Vision
- ...by developing and applying staffing policy and guidelines

Ensures orderly and safe operation of the College

- ...by applying appropriate Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) and Child Protection guidelines
- ...by applying efficient student management procedures
- ...by ensuring appropriate security measures are in place.