



St Mary's College ***Junior Excellence Academy***

Are you looking for a program that will challenge and inspire your child to reach their full potential? Look no further than St Mary's College Junior Excellence Academy! Our high school excellence program is designed specifically for students in years 7 - 9 to provide students with a rigorous and stimulating academic experience that will prepare them for success in high school and beyond.

At the Junior Excellence Academy, we believe that every student has the potential to excel. That's why we offer a curriculum that is both challenging and engaging, with a focus on STEM subjects, critical thinking, and problem-solving. Our teachers are highly qualified and dedicated to helping each student reach their full potential.

In addition to our academic program, we also offer a wide range of extracurricular activities, including sports teams, music and drama programs, and clubs for students with specific interests. These activities not only provide students with the opportunity to explore their passions, but also help them develop important life skills such as teamwork, leadership, and time management. Our academy students will be encouraged to broaden their interests and challenge themselves in a wide variety of academic competitions and extra-curricular activities.

Our state-of-the-art facilities, including modern classrooms and cutting-edge technology, provide students with the resources they need to succeed. Each student in the academy will be mentored by a senior member of our college leadership team, where they will meet individually with each student to set goals and reflect on their effort and performance each term. – this will ensure that each student receives the individual attention they need to thrive. Academy students will also have the opportunity to be a part of the Young Scholars Program – in which they are introduced to university study and life through field trips to the University of the Sunshine Coast.

Being part of the Junior Excellence Academy is more than just joining an academic program - it's joining a community of students, teachers, and families who are all committed to excellence. We invite you to visit our campus and see for yourself what makes the Junior Excellence Academy such a great opportunity.

Junior Excellence Academy Criteria

Academic performance:

- Students must have a strong and consistent record of academic achievement (please attach two most recent report cards)

Effort and Behaviour - A student who demonstrates excellent effort and behaviour is one who:

- *consistently puts forth their best effort in all aspects of their academic and personal life.*
- *is highly motivated to succeed and is willing to put in the work necessary to achieve their goals.*
- *comes to class prepared and ready to learn, actively participate in class discussions, and takes thorough and thoughtful notes.*
- *is respectful to both teachers and peers and conducts themselves in a mature and responsible manner.*
- *is mindful of their own behaviour and takes responsibility for their actions.*
- *is polite and courteous and follows all school rules and regulations.*
- *is reliable, responsible, and dependable, and always meets deadlines and complete assignments on time.*
- *is a positive influence on others, is supportive and encouraging of their classmates, and is quick to offer help or assistance when needed.*
- *is proactive and engages in self-reflection and is always looking for ways to improve and grow as a student.*

Extracurricular activities: Students should have a history of, and an interest in, being involved in extracurricular activities such as clubs, sports, or community service and have a history of leadership and initiative.

Recommendations: Students must provide one recommendation from a teacher, coach or counsellor who can attest to their academic abilities and potential for success in an excellence program in the form of a signature on the application page.

Personal statement: Students must submit a personal statement that demonstrates their motivation, goals, and readiness for the excellence academy program.

Interview: Students *may* be required to participate in an interview with program administrators to further assess their qualifications and readiness for the program.

The number of students in the Junior Excellence Academy will be capped due to:

- *Quality assurance: Capping the number of students allows the academy to maintain a low student-to-mentor ratio, which ensures that each student receives ample attention and support.*
- *Admissions criteria: The academy has strict admission criteria, and capping the number of students allows us to maintain high standards and select the most qualified applicants.*

If applicants are not successful they are still encouraged to participate in many of these opportunities as part of St Mary's College Strive for Excellence for all students,

Students and parents acknowledge by applying that students may be required to assist in the promotion of the academy both at school and in external promotional opportunities and materials.

*Applications open Wednesday 8 February and close Friday 3 March at 3.00pm.
Please submit this form at the student counter.*

Listed below are some of the many opportunities available to academy students in 2023. Some of these are compulsory, however we encourage our academy students to participate in as many of these different opportunities and challenges as possible. Compulsory competitions and activities are marked with an asterisk.

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| Academic mentoring * | <p>One meeting per term with a member of the school's leadership team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal setting and planning • Results and reflection |
| 'Future scholars' program * | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UniSC Hervey Bay • <i>1 day trip to campus</i> • <i>Meet current students</i> • <i>Meet current staff</i> • Q&A |
| English | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public speaking (may include debating, speaking on assemblies, toastmasters, and other opportunities) • Extra novel study - <i>incorporating this into the annual novel study where students examine 2 novels as a comparative task.</i> • Spelling Bee • Extension Assessment Tasks * • Articles written by students for the College Newsletter • Membership to Qld Writer's Centre • Eisteddfod entries in speaking (poetry and persuasive), writing, reading, performing(drama) • Reading Club • National English Competition * |
| Science | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Science Competition * • Sleek Geeks |
| Humanities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Geography Competition* • Australian History Competition* • Extension Assessment Tasks * • Model United Nations |
| Religious Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics Olympiad • Service activities (Nourish Club, Charity support outside of school) • Mass service (altar service, readers, music) |
| Maths | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UniSC Maths Modelling Competition * • Australian Mathematics Competitions* • Extension tasks and assessments * |
| Languages | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating links with students in Japan to be able to write and speak to them on a regular basis • Membership to Local, State and National cultural societies • Language Competitions • Brisbane Festivals |
| STEAM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Space Design Challenge * • Premiers Coding Challenge • STEM MAD |
| Arts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shakefest • Visual Art comp • Scene Project • 1 minute Film Festival |
| Social/Service Learning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College Ambassador |

