STRONG MINDS
Gentle Hearts

Educating boys at Marist College Canberra
The mother and first teacher of Jesus, Mary, ‘kept the faith’ through many difficulties, marvelled at God’s action in her life and strove to ‘make Jesus known and loved’.

The person of Mary is a model for Marist teachers. The College strives to emulate her strength and gentleness. We see Mary as the quintessential Christian educator.
“...nurture and enjoy the learning environment and provide a wealth of possibilities to empower and challenge your son to grow and achieve his best.”

Matthew Hutchison
Headmaster
Your boys are
Marist teachers are passionate about creating a learning environment that speaks to the heart, expands the mind, and enriches the life of every boy entrusted to their care.

We build trusting relationships between staff and students where each boy is known, feels safe and is respected for who he is. These relationships enable boys to thrive, ask questions, take risks, make mistakes, initiate and lead. They also help boys realise they are supported, cared for and valued, which in turn leads them to support, care for and value others.

In partnership with our families, the College embraces St Marcellin Champagnat’s mission of...

...creating fine young men, together.

The following key areas are based on the experiences, reflections, research and proud tradition of providing quality boys’ education at the College.
1. Respectful Relationships

She understands my sense of humor.

We have a genuine interest in your son developing real connections.

We show empathy towards our students, seeking to understand who they are and what motivates and inspires them.

We are keenly aware of the partnership between families and the College, maintaining, responding and initiating communication with families whenever required.

Developing personalities need a strong and secure environment in order to flourish. We make every student feel valued as an individual.

We have a genuine interest in your son developing real connections. We show empathy towards our students, seeking to understand who they are and what motivates and inspires them.

We create opportunities to encounter others, through immersions, service and co-educational retreat experiences.

She has a big heart.

She understands my crazy jokes.

He gets my crazy jokes.
“Marcellin wanted Marist schools to be more than communities – he wanted them to be families, where everyone has an honoured place, where relationships are warm and informal, where hospitality is a special feature, and where correction is just, kind and forgiving.”

‘Good Christians and Good Citizens’
2. Boy Talk

Our teachers choose their words carefully. We set clear standards, we show boys we believe in their goodness and we take the time to listen.

As teachers, we promote concise instructions and clear timelines. We take the time to explain school work instructions a number of times, if necessary.

- We talk less and listen more in our conversations with boys.
- We don’t confuse the person with their action when mistakes are made and affirm boys as often as possible.
- We allow time for boys to think.
“Treat the classroom like a stage and keep it interesting.”

Sarah Mahar, Marist Teacher
3. Celebrate Growth

We create experiences to challenge and create restlessness to enrich the life of every boy.

Our teachers consistently set high standards for their students and understand that mistakes are part of the learning process.

**Our teachers understand that holistic development will result in growth.**

- We celebrate student growth which strives to build confidence, reinforcing the connection between effort and achievement.

- We understand that if a boy believes in success, he’ll try and live up to it.

- We regularly make success challenging, yet attainable, by breaking it down into stages to ensure engagement, motivation and future growth.

“As in a good family, with them we share life with its successes and failures”

‘In The Footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat’
Celebrate achievement

Take one step at a time

Practise, Practise, Practise

Keep your composure

Embrace the challenge

Listen to constructive criticism

Keep focussed

Stay grounded

Use all support

Find your balance
4. LEARN BY DOING

Our teachers let boys explore new concepts and understand their need to investigate how things work.

We understand their need for balls to kick, things to climb and to pit themselves against a challenge.

We provide opportunities for boys to express themselves in the arts, technology, performing arts, sport and much more.

Boys thrive when they question, take risks and make mistakes, initiate and lead.

We understand that boys experiment with connection through action.

THAT’S SERIOUSLY COOL!
“Teaching boys is like being a cross between a matador and a traffic cop. Keep on the move and mingle with the crowd.”

Andrew Fuller, Psychologist
At Marist, we teach boys to “roll up their sleeves” as St Marcellin did...

We model a love of work through careful preparation of classes and care for the individual.

Through our culture, boys learn that work is a powerful means of self-fulfilment and discover the dignity of work.

We promote a culture of grit, encouraging students to persist with passion and persevere when obstacles are faced.

We never give up on our students, rather we seek creative and positive ways to challenge and support their particular needs.

Our boys are generous of heart, constant and persevering in their daily work as well as in the efforts undertaken for their own ongoing learning.
“Identify and acknowledge their individual gifts and talents, help them find their own values and love them for who they are.”

Dr Arne Rubinstein, ‘The Making of Men’
6. Laughter & Lightness

Our teachers understand humour is a great way of connecting with boys and it brings a sense of safety and belonging.

We have the capacity to achieve the right balance in the classroom in developing real and authentic connections.

We know that if it’s fun and interactive, boys will remember what was learnt in class.

We understand boys respond to teachers who are fair, have a sense of humour and respect their point of view.
“Boys feel safe when teachers model an ability to laugh at themselves and admit their mistakes.”

Kathy Haseler, Marist Administration
We understand, connect and nurture boys so they feel noticed, safe and valued.

Our boys’ strong sense of belonging promotes a positive attitude towards learning.
7. Belonging

“Connection is why we’re here; it is what gives purpose and meaning.”

Brené Brown, ‘Daring Greatly’

We encourage our boys to try diverse programs which celebrate individuality and teamwork, while fostering values and respect.

To help develop a sense of belonging, we work with boys to develop their passion.

Our College is more than just a community. Marcellin wanted schools to be families where everyone has an honoured place, where hospitality is a special feature, where relationships are warm and informal.
8. Challenge Boys to be Great

Boys like to know what to expect and have tasks broken down into smaller parts, have single concepts and a very clear structure.

We know boys will respond to the setting of short-term goals to achieve a bigger goal, one step at a time. We acknowledge student goals are personal and provide them with realistic opportunities to achieve success.

By regularly reviewing student learning and progress and by providing specific and relevant feedback, our teachers develop passion and enthusiasm for learning.

"Those who have a strong sense of love and belonging have the courage to be imperfect."

Brené Brown, Professor, Lecturer, Author
9. Reaching Boys

“At Marist, our boys strive to win with humility, lose with grace and do both with dignity.”

Matthew Hutchison, Headmaster
At Marist College, we pride ourselves on providing students with an extensive range of co-curricular activities which enrich the lives of our boys by building on their passions, talents and interests beyond the classroom.

- Difference and diversity are promoted and the co-curricular program aims to be inclusive of all.
- We recognise the benefits of sport in creating healthy, confident and happy boys.
- Competing for and representing the College gives boys a sense of comradery, belonging and pride.
- There are numerous Faith Formation activities which allow boys the opportunity to put their faith into action and reach out beyond their own needs in the service of others.
10. Nurture Faith

Marist is a place of encounter and witness.

Marist boys will affirm our Marist core values of faith, compassion, hospitality, love and justice.

Boys are taught to share their gifts through the service of others and make a positive impact in the community.

Involvement in College activities allows our boys to stand in solidarity with others and live our Marist ideals of presence, family spirit, simplicity and love of work, in the way of Mary.

“Get off the couch and change the world!”

Pope Francis
With a combination of strength and gentleness, Marists ‘do good quietly’.

Marist boys have hearts that are formed and souls that seek God in the everyday.