Truth, Charity and Constancy
Creator God,

You invite us to open the doors to our hearts.

May our College, in the spirit of the Marist Brothers and the Sisters of Our Lady of Sion, be a family of support, gathered around the same table.

May we welcome and respect all, and build bridges wherever disagreement, disappointment, loss or discouragement are found.

Through Mary’s intercession, may we fulfil the dreams of our founders, St Marcellin and Father Theodore, to make Jesus known and loved, to work for justice, reconciliation and peace, and to live lives of truth, charity and constancy.

Amen.
Dear Parents,

Marist-Sion provides a quality education in the Catholic tradition for the young people of Warragul and the surrounding districts. A hallmark of the school is the way the various members of its community - students, staff and parents - work together closely to promote excellence in learning. We work hard to help each student recognise their talents and give them a wide range of rich learning experiences so they can achieve their potential.

As is reflected in our motto, ‘Truth, Charity and Constancy’, Marist-Sion places considerable emphasis on helping its students to develop qualities of character. To prepare the young people in our care for an ever-changing world, we empower them to develop skills, faith, confidence and attitudes which will help them to thrive individually and enable them to make a difference in their community.

I offer my best wishes to those who are investigating educational alternatives since this is a most important decision. I am confident our school is able to provide challenging educational and cultural experiences for your child within a happy and purposeful Christian environment.

You are invited to contact the Enrolment Officer, Mrs Kaye Hanley, on 5623 5944 should you wish to make an enquiry.

Yours sincerely,
Peter Houlahan
Principal
We will foster faith, understanding and compassion, and challenge students to base their lives on truth, charity and constancy.
History of the College

Marist-Sion College has its origins in two Colleges: St Joseph’s College (for boys) founded in 1951 and Our Lady of Sion College (for girls) founded in 1905; each of which was established for the girls and boys of the Warragul area.

Since the amalgamation of the two Colleges in 1975, Marist-Sion has been committed to pursue the ideals of the two founding religious orders proclaiming the Gospel and inviting a response in faith; the pursuit of justice, peace and love in the world; and the nurturing of a family spirit which is evident in our openness to others, our warmth and friendliness.

Situated on one campus of 46 acres, with beautiful views of Mount Baw Baw and the Strzelecki Ranges, the College caters for approximately 900 students and is accessible by public transport. Marist-Sion serves four local parishes; Warragul, Drouin, Trafalgar and Iona/Maryknoll.

The College is continuing its ongoing development of facilities, with several building projects planned for systematic completion in the next five years. Our technology infrastructure is well developed and supports the use of notebook computers by all of our students.

The College has reaffirmed its belonging to the Marist Charism by becoming an Associated School with Marist Schools Australia. In 2005, the College celebrated the centenary of Our Lady of Sion Sisters in Warragul. The sisters continue their involvement in various aspects of College life including the induction of teaching staff and College celebrations.
Marist-Sion College, Warragul, is a Catholic co-educational secondary school which is inspired by the traditions of the Marist Brothers and the Sisters of Our Lady of Sion.
Our Mission

Marist-Sion College, Warragul, is a Catholic co-educational secondary school which is inspired by the traditions of the Marist Brothers and the Sisters of Our Lady of Sion.

Our mission is to proclaim the Gospel message with joyful hope, to nurture those in our community and to inspire excellence.
Our Values and Vision

Faith in Action
We aim to promote an active faith which is guided by the Gospel message, scriptural values and the Catholic tradition.

Excellence in Teaching and Learning
We aim to help students and staff to maximise their capabilities.

Community
We aim to build a community within which all are nurtured, valued and respected.

Resilience
We aim to develop students’ ability to recover from setbacks and persevere in the face of challenges.

Purpose
We aim to help students find meaning and direction, enabling them to live active and engaged lives.

Justice
We aim to create a more just and sustainable world.
Student Leadership

Developing students’ confidence and leadership qualities

Marist-Sion students are taught to value themselves and their community through the promotion of a strong social conscience and sense of justice. We provide a nurturing environment in which students are prepared to take on life’s daily challenges. In this atmosphere, all students can develop the leadership qualities needed to succeed in school and beyond.

At each stage of schooling, students are presented with opportunities to enhance their leadership skills, to experience success and meet challenges which build self confidence and resilience.

Students are fully supported by staff throughout this process, and are also encouraged to support their peers. Whilst all students are seen as having leadership responsibilities, official positions include School Captain, along with Colour Captains of Liturgy, Justice, Sports and Games, Performing Arts, Visual Arts and Academic Diligence. Within each House, students may nominate for House Captain, or to be a member of the Student Representative Council. All student leaders receive training for their positions.

Pastoral Care

A strong commitment to Pastoral Care is evident in our organizational structures. Our tradition in relation to discipline has emphasis on creating an encouraging and friendly environment of calm and order in which students can learn effectively, and on preventing problems before they occur.

We educate above all through being present to young people in ways that show we care for them personally. We promote the charism of the Marist order that ‘to bring up children properly, we must love them, and love them all equally’.

- Pastoral Care is primarily undertaken through the College House system. We have eight Houses of around 120 students each, coordinated by a Head of House and a team of Tutors.
- Tutor Groups - our students are supported by their Tutors who have a detailed knowledge of the progress and particular needs of students in their care from year to year. Tutors develop close relationships with their group and liaise with their families as the need arises.
- Heads of House work with Tutors to help students across all aspects of College life. The College Psychologist and Counsellor are available to provide specialist guidance on a range of issues.
- The Education Support Centre cares for young people with special learning needs. Specialists in such areas as speech pathology, literacy intervention and integration of students, are available as needed.
- Programs such as Seasons for Growth offer peer support for young people who are experiencing sadness and loss.
- The Careers and Pathways program assists with career advice, work placement, alternative curriculum programs and course selection.
Marist-Sion College will work to empower students to live out the Gospel message of love in their everyday lives.
Our central purpose is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, in a spirit of joyful hope.
Religious Education

Marist-Sion College invites and supports students to discover God’s presence in their daily lives. Students are challenged and supported to understand themselves and the world in which they live through a world view founded in Scripture and in the traditions of the Catholic Christian community: its stories, its worship, its experiences and its teachings.

Religious Education is at the centre of the Marist-Sion curriculum and is reflected in a visible Catholic culture and active sacramental practice. Religious education explores students’ life experiences in the context of church teachings and tradition. The Religious Education curriculum is that of the Diocese of Sale.

Participation in religious education is compulsory for all students from Year 7 to Year 12. Beyond the classroom we provide additional opportunities for students to express and develop their faith through prayer, retreats and other spiritual experiences. Opportunities exist for young people to further their spiritual formation through membership of Remar (a movement which provides personal and spiritual development and social justice involvement) or through involvement in other youth ministry initiatives such as Catholic Schools Youth Ministry Australia.
A Rich Curriculum

The College aims to develop within each student a love of learning, an enquiring mind and the desire to strive for their personal best. A range of learning experiences are provided which assist students to improve their own study skills, promote excellence in learning, and develop their self-esteem, confidence and independence.

Students have varying cognitive, social, emotional and physical needs according to their differing capacities, qualities and aptitudes. The comprehensive curriculum provides for these various needs. The range of options offered allows each student to pursue an educational course which will more than adequately prepare them for their lives after secondary school. The curriculum is forward looking and focuses on giving students the capacity for lifelong learning as well as a thorough grounding in foundation knowledge and skills, and the capacity to be adaptable and flexible in a changing world. The Victorian Essential Learning Standards and the new Australian Curriculum support us in the vital role we play in developing skilled, flexible, responsible and creative young people.

The College offers a curriculum of prescribed and elective studies

In Years 7 and 8, students study a compulsory broadly based curriculum encompassing all the Learning Areas:
- English
- Health and Physical Education
- Humanities
- Information Technology (integrated)
- LOTE - Japanese and German
- Mathematics
- Performing Arts
- Religious Education
- Science
- Technology
- Visual Arts

In Years 9 and 10, students complete prescribed studies in some of the learning areas and are encouraged to develop areas of particular interest through a comprehensive electives program.

In Year 10, students also have the opportunity to undertake vocational programs or accelerated VCE studies

In Years 11 and 12, students are offered a wide range of VCE studies, a selection of VET (Vocational Education and Training) programs and the VCAL programs. Courses are tailored to meet the individual needs and particular interests of our students. Student selection of a course of study is supported by counselling and careers advice.
The staff, students and parents form a welcoming community of learners, within which all are respected and encouraged to strive for personal excellence.
Educational Pathways

As students progress through the years of secondary study they are required to make choices about subjects that they will study. Choices made in Years 10 to 12 lead students into various options for tertiary study and the world of work.

The enclosed Curriculum tables show the current curriculum offering for Years 7 to 12. The following reference will assist.

Years 7 and 8
Students study all subjects offered including one LOTE study.

Year 9
Students study a prescribed set of core subjects. Students select and study four Electives over the year.

Year 10
Students study a prescribed set of core subjects. Students select and study a number of electives over the year, depending on the program undertaken. Acceleration in a Units 1 & 2 VCE study is offered to selected Year 10 students. Vocational studies are also available.

Years 11 and 12
Students select studies which comprise a VCE program, VET studies in the VCE or a VCAL (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning) program. Acceleration to a Units 3 & 4 VCE study is offered to selected Year 11 students.

Extending Learning Opportunities

At Marist-Sion we meet new educational challenges and strive to make a difference for our students by developing our facilities for learning and leisure and by the cultivation of spiritual and aesthetic awareness.

Students need sustained intellectual challenge and the confidence achievement brings for them to be prepared for a rapidly changing world.

Complementing the teaching programs are special learning arrangements which are designed to assist students requiring additional support and extend students who are ready for enrichment.

These opportunities include:

- Information Literacy and Study Skills programs
- SURF (Sustained, Uninterrupted Reading for Fun)
- Learning Support classes
- Integration support through the Education Support team
- Homework Club
- The Academic Enrichment Program including Merits, Visas and Passports
- Subject related benchmark competitions
- Work Placement opportunities
- Mathematics and Science enrichment activities
- Visual Arts and Design competitions
- Debating and Public Speaking
- Writing Workshops
- LOTE competitions and activities
- Drama and Music performances
Our words and actions will show respect for the dignity and uniqueness of each individual.
Beyond the Classrooms

**Encouraging students to achieve their personal best**

The curriculum offered at Marist-Sion recognises that each student learns differently. Individual learning styles and talents are catered for both in and outside the classroom. The co-curricular program challenges students with an extensive range of activities which include:

- Outdoor Education
- Performing Arts - Choir, Bands, School Production, Music and Dramatic Performance, Theatre Sports
- Inter-House Sports - Athletics, Swimming and Cross Country; regular Inter-House team competitions
- Inter-School Competition – our membership in the Gippsland Independent Schools Association (GIS) enables our students to participate in sporting performance and cultural competitions.
- Senior Netball, Basketball and Cricket teams participating in tournaments involving Marist schools from across Australia
- Public Speaking and Debating
- Overseas trips to Japan and Germany for language students
- REMAR - Spirituality, social justice and personal development.

Experienced staff help to identify emerging talent and work with students and their parents to motivate and sustain interest and enthusiasm, to encourage students to commit themselves to personal goals.
The College will strive to provide an excellent and holistic education which responds to differing needs, so that our students become life-long learners, dedicated citizens and responsible stewards of creation.
Marist-Sion College is a foundation member of the Association of Marist Schools of Australia.