

28 February 2023

Dear Parents and Parent Liaisons,

**RE: ASPIRE Program – Years 3 – 6**

The **ASPIRE program** is for our Highly Able Years 3-6 Primary students who have demonstrated a keen sense of curiosity and an ability to work independently. The ASPIRE Program uses an **Inquiry Model** of Learning and draws on the principles of Project Based Learning.

As stated previously students need to have:

- A natural sense of curiosity
- A high ability to work independently.
- A high level of commitment to classroom programs and homework
- A willingness to catch up on classroom work missed during the ASPIRE sessions.
- A high level of focus and persistence
- A consistent ability to complete classroom work, including ASPIRE to a high standard.

Student's continued participation in the program will be dependent on them meeting the above criteria. The ASPIRE co-ordinator will meet regularly with classroom teachers throughout the year to ensure that students are managing the increased demands that come with being in the ASPIRE program. Students may be asked to temporarily leave the program if their work or behaviour falls below expectations or exit the program altogether.

Please note that entry into **ASPIRE Program for Year levels 3-6**, from 2023 will be conditional on results achieved in standardised tests in Reading and Mathematics and students will be expected to score in the above average range to secure a place in the program. In addition, when selecting students for the ASPIRE program teachers will consider the following:

1. Above average performance in class and assessment tasks.
2. Parent referral supported with evidence e.g. high scores in competitions UNSW competitions e.g. Australian Maths Competition and Maths Olympiad.
3. School reports that indicate that the student is above standard in Literacy and Numeracy.
4. Assessment using the Wechsler Test for children (WISC) by Psychologist in-house or external indicating that the student is at least one standard deviation above the mean.
5. Above average score on an abstract reasoning test conducted by AGS teachers.

If you would like more information, please email Mrs Downey [ddo@ags.vic.edu.au](mailto:ddo@ags.vic.edu.au) or contact your child's class teacher.

The ASPIRE program for 2023 will commence Week 6 of Term 1. Students that have been identified as being suitable for the program will be contacted prior to ASPIRE classes commencing.



Dianne Downey  
Primary Numeracy/ICT  
ASPIRE Coordinator