

STUDENT LEADERSHIP POLICY

Preamble

Mount Ridley College believes in the personal growth and development of every student and recognises the profound contribution student voice provides to whole College community values development, teaching and learning. The provision of a wide range of opportunities for leadership development enhances student self esteem, drives positive College vision, and fosters partnerships between students, staff and parents.

Rationale

Student input into formal decision making is integral to the success of our College. Formal and structured student leadership will provide the forum for students to express their views and opinions, as well as suggesting and preparing implementation plans for improvements to our College, in consultation with staff and College Council. By encouraging student leadership we are developing community leaders of the future.

Guiding Principles

Mount Ridley College Values underpin our broad, inclusive and dynamic student voice program.

- Student Leadership is valued by the whole College community as an opportunity for students to voice and take action on their interests and concerns.
- Student Leadership is the vehicle for student participation in the running of the College.
- The student leadership program will enhance communication and leadership skills in our students.
- As part of the decision making process of the College, Student Leadership provides the link between students and other groups within the College i.e. College Council and Staff.
- All students within the College are represented by nominated and elected members who meet regularly to discuss issues raised within the College.
- The election of representatives in to key positions provides students with the opportunity to participate in a democratic process and nominated positions ensure that the student leadership body develops cognisant of College needs.
- Students involved in Student Leadership will act as role models and behave in a manner, which reflects the values of our College community.

Implementation

Members of the Student Leadership Group will work towards enhancing the Mount Ridley College experience by:

- Helping to create a community atmosphere where everybody can work together, be safe, learn and have fun.
- Providing suggestions to staff, the College Council and other sub committees, e.g. Canteen, curriculum, student services in order to enhance student experience.
- Ensure that student interests are addressed and directed to relevant forums as appropriate including College Council.
- Student altruism is positively encouraged through a range of activities, including fundraising where approved by College Council. All such fundraising managed by students in consultation with student council, organising, promoting and participating in whole College events, such as athletics
- The Global High Resolves program as implemented 2014 will provide leadership training as well as promote a culture and awareness of altruistic endeavour
- Carnivals, art exhibitions, school productions, student assemblies, publications, information evenings and eLearning programs will include component of student voice.

Strategies to support Student Leadership

- Student Leadership groups will meet weekly, at a regular time, and sub-committees will meet at other times as required.
- Student Leadership will be supported by designated members of staff.
- Staff will support Student Leaders reasonable time to report/and or participate in student leadership activities where these are sanctioned by Student Leadership staff.
- Members of the Student Leadership will be introduced to the College at Assembly.
- Student Leadership activities will be widely promoted through the College, using a variety of communication strategies.

Selection Criteria

It is expected that students wishing to be elected as part of the Student Leadership team will be good role models for others as they exhibit the College Values

Procedures

Students who have been nominated and selected as Student Representative Council Members will typically serve their term from Week 1, Term 2 until the last week of Term 1 in the following year.

The elections for Student Leadership positions including House and Subschool Captains also take place towards the end of Term One. Executive members will be elected by the Student Leadership team. Special area nominated leaders will undergo an application process during first term also. Detailed procedures can be found in the Appendix.

Evaluation

As part of the College review cycle this policy will be reviewed in 2014 to ensure that the student leadership program is meeting the growing needs of the College.

Date policy ratified: 19/05/2015

Date of next review: 2018

APPENDIX ONE:

MRC Student Leadership opportunities

Within Student Leadership there will be a number of roles to fulfill:

- College Captains
- Middle School House Leaders
- Junior School Captains
- Junior School House Leaders
- Special learning area Captains

Procedures:

Students who have had the opportunity to be a House Leader will not typically serve consecutive years. Students can be re-elected when moving to the next sub-school. However, where there are not enough suitable candidates to fulfill these roles students may be able to nominate again. This will be at the discretion of the Student Leadership Program Leader.

Process for Election:

The Student Leadership Program Leader will organise nomination paper for collection at the sub-school office at least one week prior to the submission date. They will ensure that suitably nominated candidates are listed on the ballot papers. They will also ensure that the ballots are counted correctly and the results are true.

Students who are elected as Student Leadership members will be presented with their badges at the whole school assembly in Term 1 or at the next practical time and recognised in the College newsletter, on the school web-site and any other publications deemed appropriate by the College Principal. In 2014, the college will implement a Presentation Evening Program where parents are invited. This will honour and acknowledge the efforts of student leaders.

Duties of members within the Student Leadership group

- Student Leaders will be asked to sign a Memorandum of Understanding outlining their roles and duties, as per their Position of Responsibility.
- Student Leaders will attend all scheduled meetings.
- Student Leaders will report back issues and update information to their specific areas after meetings and chair discussions on issues raised.

College Captains and Student Leaders:

- Lead Whole College / Junior School assemblies /represent their House
- Lead student action teams and chair meetings
- Take concerns and discussions to the College Principal or appropriate personnel. Represent the College in external representation
- Promote the College's house activities throughout the College

- Representatives will represent the College at official functions, assist in College tours or perform specific tasks as they arise (This may include media interactions).
- Additional duties can be agreed upon on a needs basis.
- Support all initiatives, including the initiation and co-ordination of community and College based fundraising.

Special Area Captains will support their curriculum learning area. For example and not excluding other duties:

Sports Captains:

- Support the house captains
- Assist with lunchtime activities
- Assist in College sport days
- Support the P.E Team

Arts Captains:

- Promote the arts program
- Supporting the arts faculty
- Assist with the organisation of shows
- Pinning up arts displays
- Newsletter
- Inform students of arts activities at assemblies
- Run and support lunchtime activities in the junior school

Other Special Area Captains will be appointed in line with Staff mentor support for the area. Such groups will include sustainability, technology, publication, well-being and curriculum areas.

Staff Responsibilities:

- In the case of elections, the Student Leadership Program Leader will discuss with the relevant students the need to choose the best person for the position, including voting protocols.
- Reasonable time shall be allowed by all staff for students to attend to their supervised leadership duties. These duties should not overly take from any teaching area time.
- The Student Leadership Program Leader will assist all members and provide the required training to develop their leadership and public speaking skills.
- The Student Leadership Program Leader will assist Student Leaders by liaising with relevant College groups, e.g. staff, College Council.
- The Leading Teacher with Student Leadership portfolio will provide support to and supervise the role of Program Leader, as well as further develop policy in response to growth of the College.

Code of Conduct

Where student leaders do not adhere adequately to College Values in their role, appropriate disciplinary procedures may be observed by the Student Leadership staff team, including Leading Teacher, Program Leader, and Principal. These measures will include warnings and mentoring but may include removal from the leadership program in some cases.

Student Leadership Meetings

Weekly Meetings will be supervised by staff and run democratically, ensuring adequate voice and appropriate organisation of reporting groups by student leaders.

MRC COLLEGE CAPTAIN
APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____ Year Level: _____

Explain how you demonstrate the Mount Ridley P-12 College values.

Explain any previous leadership experience have you had or the leadership qualities that you will be able to demonstrate while in this position.

What do you perceive will be the main priorities while you are in the position of

College Captain?

Finally, please tell us why you wish to be considered for the position of College Captain.

Nominee's Signature: _____ Staff member's Signature: _____

MRC SUB-School CAPTAIN
APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____ Year Level: _____

Explain how you demonstrate the Mount Ridley P-12 College values.

Explain any previous leadership experience have you had or the leadership qualities that you will be able to demonstrate while in this position.

What do you perceive will be the main priorities while you are in the position of Sub-school Captain?

Finally, please tell us why you wish to be considered for the position of Sub-School Captain.

Nominee's Signature: _____ Staff member's Signature: _____

