The background is a solid dark green color. On the left side, there are several overlapping, curved, semi-transparent shapes in various shades of green, creating a layered, abstract effect. The text is positioned on the right side of the page.

Annual Report to the
Santa Maria College Community
from the Principal

2018



INTRODUCTION

In February 2018 our College community gathered together for our Opening Mass and my Commissioning as Principal. I am deeply honoured to have been given this opportunity and have very much enjoyed my first year as Principal of Santa Maria College.

In 2018 Santa Maria College celebrated 80 years and we give great thanks for our heritage, to the Sisters of Mercy. The Sisters of Mercy played an incredible role as Principals, teachers, boarding staff, music staff and many other important roles in College life and for this we are truly grateful. Santa Maria College would not exist without the vision and hard work of the Sisters of Mercy.

Catherine McAuley, our Foundress focused her life on educating poor women and children. I believe Catherine would be very proud to see how the school that catered for 15 students on the day it opened in 1938, is now a thriving community celebrating our 80th year.

Our Mercy Value for 2018 was Excellence which states. "To excel is to strive to do everything to the highest possible standard to which we are capable. We do this by using our gifts and talents to their fullest at all times." We asked our girls to pursue excellence in every endeavour, and I am proud of how consistently and committedly they enacted this value throughout the year.





1. COLLEGE ADVISORY COUNCIL COMMENTS FROM CHAIRPERSON - LIBBY WILKES

In 2018, the College Advisory Council welcomed Jennifer Oaten to her role as Principal of Santa Maria College. We congratulate Jennifer on a successful first year and thank her, the College Executive team and all staff for their hard work and commitment in making Santa Maria College a leader in education. 2018 was busy and productive with all College benchmarks (spiritual/pastoral, academic, cultural and financial) being positive.

In February, after consultation with students, parents and staff, an innovative three year Strategic Plan spanning the breadth of College life (ethos, teaching & learning, resources, community, students and staff) was implemented. The strategic plan focuses on new ideas and directions whilst maintaining our high standard of education in the Mercy tradition of Hospitality, Compassion, Justice, Service and Excellence.

Flowing from the Strategic Plan a Master Plan Project Committee was established to prepare a Master Plan and a staged Capital Development Program. We were delighted that 631 students chose to give their valuable input to this process – a fabulous representation of students who want to make a difference. With the initial consultation component now complete the next stage is to review and evaluate the data. It is envisaged that in 2019 a final Master Plan will be adopted.

In our 80th year as a College, it is a testament to the vision and values of our founding Mercy Sisters, that our College is strong, progressive and faith filled. We have so much to be proud of as we enter yet another exciting phase of development. We are blessed to be a part of the vision of Catherine McAuley and look forward to continuing to be stewards of that vision in 2019 and beyond.

2. GOVERNANCE

Mercy Education Limited (Mercy Education) is an incorporated ministry of the Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea (ISMAPNG), charged with operating all educational ministries for which the Institute has sole sponsorship. Mercy Education is one of the many works operated by the Institute throughout Australia and Papua New Guinea.



Mercy Education will operate at all times as part of the mission of the Catholic Church in conformity with canon law and in strict conformity with the ethical framework of the Institute as determined by the Institute Leader and Council from time to time.

ISMAPNG is involved with twelve fully sponsored schools - eight in Victoria, three in Western Australia and one in South Australia. The governance role of the Board of Mercy Education is confined to the twelve ISMAPNG sponsored schools and sets policies, approves each school's strategic plan, appoints Principals, approves senior leadership positions and fulfils due diligence in the area of finance and audit management, capital development, risk management and litigation.

These schools are:

- Academy of Mary Immaculate, Fitzroy, VIC
- Catherine McAuley College, Bendigo, VIC
- Mercedes College, Perth, WA
- Mount Lilydale Mercy College, Lilydale, VIC
- Our Lady of Mercy College, Heidelberg, VIC
- Sacred Heart College, Geelong, VIC
- Santa Maria College, Attadale, WA
- Sacred Heart College, Kyneton, VIC
- St Aloysius College, Adelaide, SA
- St Aloysius College, North Melbourne, VIC
- St Brigid's College, Lesmurdie, WA
- St Joseph's College, Mildura, VIC

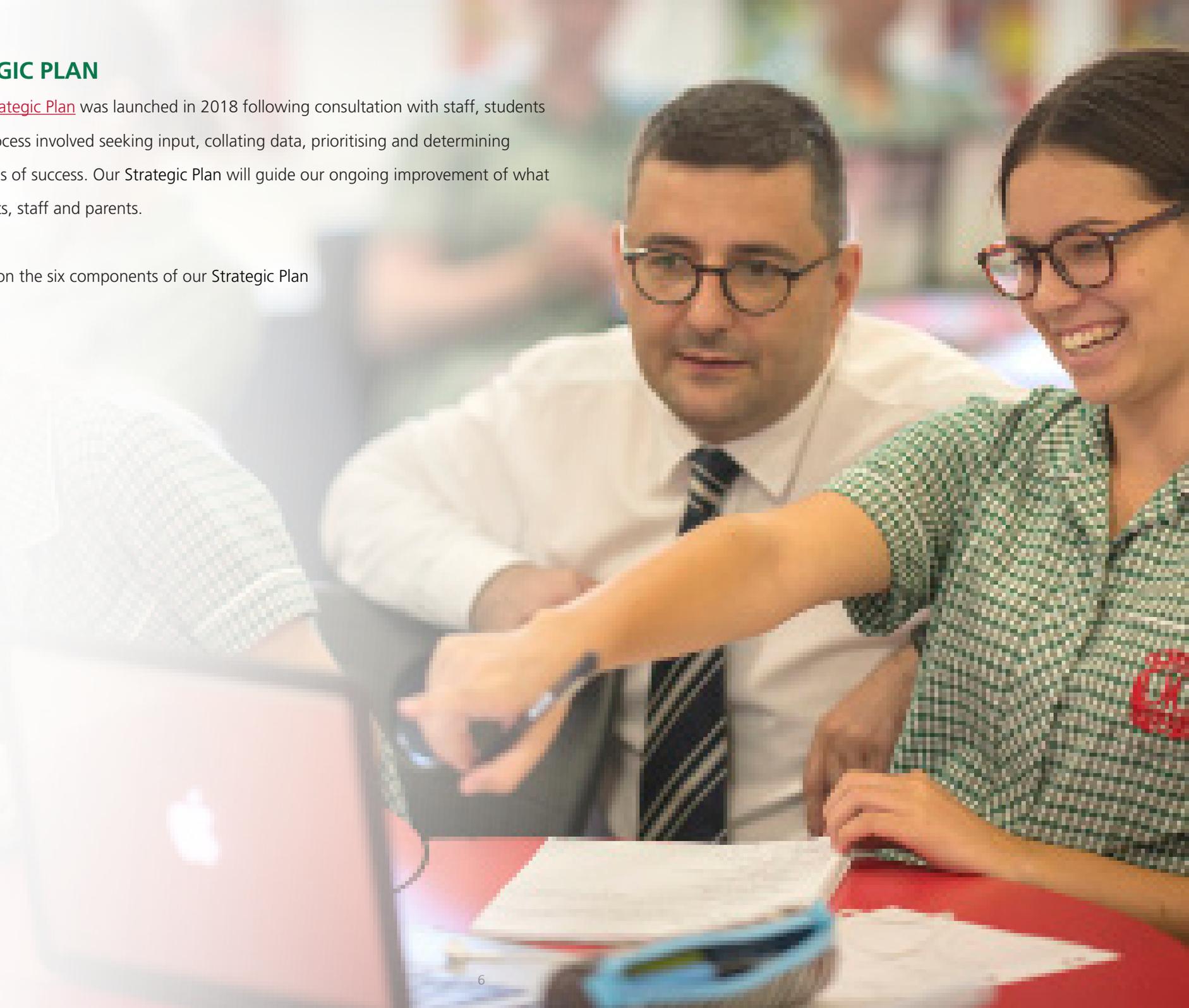
Mercy Education is the employer of the Principal and staff of the Mercy colleges. The existence of Mercy Education gives strength, support and solidarity to each of the member Mercy schools and its community.

3. STRATEGIC PLAN

The 2018 - 2020 [Strategic Plan](#) was launched in 2018 following consultation with staff, students and parents. The process involved seeking input, collating data, prioritising and determining actions and measures of success. Our Strategic Plan will guide our ongoing improvement of what we offer our students, staff and parents.

This report is based on the six components of our Strategic Plan

- Ethos
- Learning
- Students
- Staff
- Community
- Resources



4. ETHOS

The fifth biennial **Australasian Mercy Secondary Schools Student Conference** (AMSSA) was held at Santa Maria College in 2018 and honoured the foundation of the Sisters of Mercy in Australia and the faith and courage of Ursula Frayne who brought her order's spirit of Mercy to the shores of the Swan River. The conference provided an experience in heritage and celebrated the growth of Mercy across Australasia. The College welcomed students from Mercy Schools across Australia and Papua New Guinea to share in a rewarding Mercy experience. The conference saw a range of speakers from the Sisters of Mercy, alumni from Australian Mercy schools, artists & performers and social media compassion advocates.

The number of students applying for the **Punmu Immersion** continued to grow in 2018. The girls who headed north to the remote indigenous community in the Great Sandy Desert, considered it to be life changing. Being a service trip, the main aim is to provide as much assistance to the teachers and the school as possible, through activities such as painting, cooking and cleaning. However, what remains in our students' memories most, are the relationships they built with the children at the RAWA school. Our girls also quickly learnt to appreciate the connection the Martu People have with the land.

Fifteen Year 12 students participated in the 2018 **Cambodia Immersion** immersion designed to expose students to both cultural and service experiences in the cities of Phnom Penh and Siem Reap. The students participated in a service project at Missione Possibile School in Takeo Province, a school which has been very successful in retaining rural students. In three years, the school has grown from a primary school to a K-12, with the additional classrooms partly funded by our Mercy Day donations.





Other achievements include

- Hosted Mercy Education evening seminar for Staff.
- Production of a Circle of Mercy art piece.
- Incorporation of history of the sisters whom the Houses are named after into House Day celebrations.
- Increased numbers of teaching and support staff and parents attending Rosary and Mass.

5. LEARNING

In 2018 our **Teaching and Learning focus was GRIT**, which can be defined as the motivation and drive that enables us to persevere with a difficult task over a sustained period of time. When discussing Grit it was highlighted that it is not only needed for learning but also when friendships go wrong, to learn a new skill, to master a musical instrument and in life generally. Grit is known to be a great indicator of future success in life, something we want for all our girls. Girls with Grit see challenge as an opportunity to learn not just as an obstacle. Our hope is that all students will develop Grit, giving them the capacity to overcome challenges today, tomorrow and in their future lives. Our De La Vida for 2018 was titled Grit and shared many stories from staff, students and alumni about challenges they have faced. Parents were also informed via our blogs.

The **WACE Results** of the graduating Class of 2018, both ATAR and ACCESS, again achieved excellent results. We were placed 7th in the state of all WA secondary schools with a median ATAR of 90.10 and were the highest placed Catholic school in the state for the third consecutive year, indicating that the strategies we have implemented have made a difference and enable us to show consistency. We are so proud of the achievements of every student, particularly those who achieved their personal best. Our key achievements are stated on the following 2018 Academic Infograph.

Santa Maria College

2018 Academic Results Snapshot



SANTA MARIA COLLEGE

Median ATAR 90.10



7th
in WA
out of 188 Schools

TOP PERFORMING

Catholic School, for the third year in a row, out of 35 secondary schools

TOP STUDENT IN THE STATE FOR:

Religion and Life (1358 students)
Business Management & Enterprise (869 students)
Applied Information & Technology (537 students)



2 students received a **General Exhibition Award**



32 students received a Certificate of Distinction

53% of students received an ATAR of **90+**

99+ 4 students
98 8 students
97 7 students
96 8 students
95 11 students
90+ 73 students

52 received a Certificate of Merit including 9 ACCESS students

RECOGNISED AS A **TOP PERFORMING SCHOOL** IN 11 COURSES

- Applied Information Technology
- Business Management & Enterprise
- Children, Family & Community
- Economics
- English
- Geography
- Human Biology
- Modern History
- Politics & Law
- Religion & Life
- Visual Arts

13 students received a Certificate of Excellence for performances in **TOP 0.5% in the State** for WACE Exams in:

- Applied Information Technology – 1 student
- Business Management & Enterprise – 1 student
- English – 4 students
- Human Biology – 1 student
- Modern History – 2 students
- Religion & Life – 4 students

102 SCSA Awards

As part of the VET program **55 Certificates** were achieved

Cert II - 16
Cert III - 17
Cert IV - 22

28 Early Offers to Notre Dame University



We believe some of the reasons for our consistently high achievement is due to:

- Highly committed, skilled teachers who provide excellent teaching and additional support as needed, including detailed feedback on how to improve.
- Highly effective counselling process commencing in Year 10, including transition interviews for Year 11 students and tracking by the Deans of Students.
- Use of surveys to gain student feedback on teaching and learning.
- Committed students who do their best to achieve to their potential.
- Student's self-reflection, to identify areas for improvement and strategies to use next time.
- Effective revision and exam techniques.

In 2018 our **Year 10 REACH program** was implemented for the first time. The students most suited to this program are those who intend following an ACCESS pathway in Year 11. The key difference to a mainstream Year 10 timetable is that students in REACH complete a Careers subject. This includes a Certificate II in Information Technology & Digital Media qualification delivered onsite, complete general Global Science instead of a specific Science subject, complete two blocks of Work Place Learning (WPL) of one week duration in the two exam periods and complete a Senior First Aid (SFA) qualification. The program ran very successfully in 2018 and will continue to grow in 2019.

Child Safety was a priority in 2018, informed by CEWA's Child Safe Framework.

This Framework was launched with all staff, followed by a workshop for all staff on the Child Safe Curriculum. Our Health and Physical Education staff had further time for embedding the CSC into our Health program with the key focus being on respectful relationships. A Staff Code of Conduct was also developed using the Mercy Education Framework.

Other Key Achievements

- Development of OneNote as a means of providing a more effective online learning platform for staff and students
- Re-visioning the library to become the Sawle Centre providing support, extension and differentiation.
- Refinement of our Fearless Fives, a program based on being brave and having a go. The program included the integration of technology and challenges to put the girls out of their comfort zone and to develop courage in these situations.

6. STUDENTS

We have an extremely talented staff whose commitment to the College's students extends well beyond the classroom into so many of our co-curricular programs which include service, sport, performing arts and many more. The breadth of opportunities available in these programs contributes to the unique environment that is Santa Maria College.

During 2018 a new co-curricular **service program YARN** was introduced and worked to raise awareness and understanding of Indigenous culture. The students organised school celebrations of NAIDOC Week and recognition for SORRY Day and the program has enabled engagement with ICEA Foundation and involvement in their events.

Santa Maria College was named the **2018 IGSSA Athletics Champion School**. Since Santa Maria College joined IGSSA (Independent Girls Schools Sporting Association) in 2002, Penrhos have won the Athletics Carnival every year bar one. Santa Maria College had never won an IGSSA Athletics or Swimming Carnival until 2018. We won the trophy for track events and the trophy for field events and the overall trophy. We also won the Year Penants in Years 7, 10, 11 and 12. Our Year 8s were placed fourth and our Year 9s placed third. This is a significant achievement in the history of the College because we spent many years in seventh and eighth place, with the last two years in second place.

Wendy and Peter Pan was the wonderful Senior Years production in 2018 which saw a large cast and crew come together to provide remarkable performances on a purpose built sailing ship stage on the Figure 8, under the stars with the river as the backdrop. What a memorable performance, with physical challenges and the lead role being a strong female character. To see such commitment by the students and the teaching staff provides inspiration to others, with the large numbers involved in all such activities a testament to this. The Middle Years production, **Never Ending Story** was also a wonderful performance showcasing the talents of our younger students.

Music at the College continued to develop and demonstrate the talents of over 300 girls, from 15 different co-curricular groups including the four year level choirs and chorales, Symphonic Orchestra, Senior Concert band, String Orchestra, McAuley Concert Band, McMahon String Ensemble, Flute Choir and Quartet, Percussion Ensemble, Guitar Ensemble, Saxophone Ensemble and Swing Band. Our new venue of the Ern Halliday Campsite for the Music Camp provided a very good alternative site for three days of music making for the 100 students who attended.

A **review of our College Colours and Honours** in 2018 led to some changes in the way we acknowledge students' participation in co-curricular activities. Periodically reviews are undertaken to ensure the award system reflects the range of co-curricular activities undertaken by students and provides a model to record, acknowledge and affirm participation, commitment and sustained involvement in all aspects of a student's College life. The new system provides students the opportunity to gain a Gold, Silver, Bronze, Red, Green and Participation bars.

7. STAFF

In 2018 the **ASPIRE leadership program** was introduced for staff interested in developing their leadership skills or becoming more knowledgeable about current trends in educational research in this area. Two experiences were offered, one for established leaders and one for emerging leaders. The program was successful and provided opportunities for workshops and discussions.

8. COMMUNITY

Building partnerships is a key purpose of our Community Relations team who have facilitated the development of these connections with our community through the following means:

- Parent Council events through Santa Ministry, MOZZIES, Parent Network and the Boarding Network.
- OGA events for our alumni.
- Providing opportunities for alumni to reconnect with the College.
- Parent Engagement events to assist parents to understand our College focus areas.
- Our weekly News Blog sharing good news stories with the community.
- Our fortnightly Knowing Girls Blog provides evidence-based research and advice on raising young women.
- OGA Blog to share stories about and with our alumni.
- Regular postings to our social media pages such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter



9. RESOURCES

A focus area for 2018 was to develop a **Master Plan**, so the process below was undertaken and involved staff, students and parents. Further work will continue in 2019 with the expected completion date being May 2019. Much data has been gathered so the next focus will be on determining priorities.

After a decade of major capital development, the past year has focused on general improvement and essential maintenance required for our huge and complex campus. I thank the Parent Council, under the direction of John Robertson, for their financial assistance in many College projects such as purchase of the College Bus, water stations, provision of additional netball and basketball courts by remarking of existing courts.

The campus witnessed a host of minor works and refurbishments during the year, however due to development of a Master Plan other works were limited until a 10 year plan is developed.

The key project completed was the Boarding deck, which will provide a space for visiting families, social functions for boarders and extended space in the dining room.

Other Key Achievements

- Strong enrolment numbers due to excellent work of Community Relations team and our enrolment officer.
- Further development of many Environmental Initiatives



SANTA MARIACOLLEGE MASTER PLAN PROCESS



10. CONCLUSION

At Santa Maria College we have many things to be proud of:

- A strong and active faith community
- Our Mercy values central to all we do
- Outstanding teachers and support staff and a strong culture of respect
- Our extensive Service Program enabling students to demonstrate their faith through action.
- Excellent academic results in both our ATAR and ACCESS pathways.
- Incredible co-curricular offerings
- An excellent reputation with strong enrolment numbers.
- A positive financial position providing an opportunity for the next stage of capital development.

There is no doubt that so much of where Santa Maria College is today, its feel and culture is drawn from the girls, parents, grandparents, staff and the OGA and the way this community engages and involves itself in the life of the College. To remain as a high performing school we need to continually review our structures and process to ensure the opportunities we provide enable the best possible outcome for every student.





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