RYAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE

a love of Life...
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Ryan Catholic College is much more than just a school. It’s a way of life: a way of celebrating all that life has to offer.

We offer a range of challenging and relevant spiritual, academic, sporting and cultural programs which are designed to help our students reach their potential and instill in them a love of life and learning.

We provide a seamless pathway through the various stages of schooling for every member of the family, from early childhood to young adulthood. But more than that, we imbue our students with the confidence and energy to embrace life with all its joys and challenges.

Ryan welcomes students of all faiths and of all levels of ability, recognising that each child is unique and has a unique contribution to make. Our hope is that our students will develop a passion for life and pursue it with conviction and energy. Our expectation is that parents enrolling their children will support our values and philosophies.

We believe Ryan students have a role to play by using their strengths for the good of the College, and ultimately, for the community.

"I came, that they may have life and have it abundantly."  
John 10:10
Faith

Our Religious Education program is central to our existence and gospel values formation is the primary concern of all staff members.

Ryan enjoys a close relationship with the Ministerial Region of the Good Shepherd, and is blessed to have the services of Fr Dave Lancini as College Chaplain. Sacramental programs are offered by the Good Shepherd Parish and supported by the College.

Our College calendar provides many opportunities to gather as a community, through occasions such as our Opening Liturgy, Memorial Liturgy, Ryan Day, Graduation Liturgies and other special occasions. These liturgical celebrations, in which our students actively participate, resonate with joy.

Education at Ryan is not merely about how to make a living, but how to make a life - one which is meaningful, rewarding and enriching, both for the individual and the world in which we live.

All our students participate in regular Religious Education classes. We also encourage them to develop active involvement in community service activities, such as St Vincent de Paul, Young Christian Students, Relay for Life and a variety of social justice programs. This involvement in the wider community prepares our students for the challenges and possibilities beyond school.

Wasn't it like a fire burning in us when he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?

Luke 24:32

Each Other

Our students live and learn together - and love it. We pride ourselves on providing a safe, welcoming environment for all students, regardless of their background, interests or abilities.

Ryan has developed a strong Pastoral Care Program. We are committed to providing support and personal care for our students. The use of first names by all members of our community helps to build strong personal relationships.

Homeroom teachers and Pastoral Leaders for each year level monitor the personal development of students and provide active support. Homeroom teachers are responsible for the general care of the students in their group and provide an initial point of contact for any concerns.

Pastoral Leaders oversee and support the social and academic development of all students in their year level, including monitoring the progress of individual students where required. The Pastoral Leaders are assisted in this role by our Curriculum Leaders in each key learning area to ensure a wholistic approach to each child’s development.

Ryan has a caring Learning Enrichment team that works across the three areas of the school (Junior, Middle and Senior) to provide a supportive and encouraging learning environment for all students, regardless of their background or abilities.

The College also provides the services of four Counsellors, who are accessible to all members of the College Community on a confidential basis.
There are three phases in a child’s education at Ryan, reflected in our College structure which provides a seamless transition from one stage to the next.

We believe parents have a vital role to play, not only in their child’s education, but in the life of the College, and we welcome parental involvement.

**THE EARLY YEARS**

Our Junior School, comprising Preparatory to Year 4 and situated on its own campus on Golflinks Drive, provides the foundation of an education which equips our students to develop their individual gifts and abilities. Parents can be confident that their children are well cared for in a stimulating, caring Christian environment.

The Preparatory Year features an age appropriate program combining class activities and creative play. The program focuses on the adequate use of important skills such as pre-reading, pre-writing and fine motor skills.

Students in the Junior and Middle Schools undertake study in the Key Learning Areas of Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science, Technology, Studies of Society and the Environment, Physical Education, The Arts and Languages Other Than English.

Our approach to literacy encompasses the use of phonics and a whole language approach. Numeracy involves the exploration of number, so that children develop the skills to be able to think and work mathematically.

Children in all years participate in Music, IT and Physical Education activities. In Year 3, children begin studies in Languages Other Than English.

Our very rich program in the Junior School ensures that our students are ready for the transition to middle schooling, and are developing an understanding of their important in the fabric of College life.

**THE MIDDLE YEARS**

In Middle School, students continue their study of the Key Learning Areas of Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science, Technology, Studies of Society and the Environment, Physical Education, The Arts and Languages Other Than English.

Our students are encouraged to explore and develop a love for life-long learning during these key developmental years.

The curriculum in Years 5 - 8 has been designed to expose students to a diverse range of disciplines which will enable them to explore where their talents and interests lie.

In addition to their regular tuition, students in the Middle School have lessons with our specialist Science, Arts, Technology and Language teachers.

During these years, our students are provided with a balance between academic, sporting and artistic pursuits as they develop an appreciation and understanding of the world and their place in it.

From Year 6, students may choose from a number of elective units, allowing them to pursue a program of study most suited to their needs.

**SENIOR SCHOOLING**

The second semester of Year 10 is designed as a transition period for students about to enter senior schooling. Students may select a range of electives more closely aligned to those offered in the Senior School.

Our senior curriculum is designed to prepare students for their next stage in life, whether it be further study or entry into the workplace. Students are offered a challenging and diverse curriculum for the vital senior years, with a wide range of subjects accredited by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority as well as opportunities to undertake nationally accredited vocational courses.

Our vocational subjects provide a smooth transition from school to work. Students may also undertake on-the-job training through School Based Traineeships, Structured Work Placement or Work Experience.

Our Careers Counsellor is on hand to offer guidance and assistance in these important life choices.

“**The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be ignited.**”

Luke 24:32
Many exciting and wonderful experiences are offered through our Arts program. We seek to enrich our students’ love of life by educating their hearts as well as their minds, and fostering a sense of creativity.

The study of Visual Art encourages students to explore different media, including ceramics, drawing, sketching, painting and multimedia works.

All students, from Prep to Year 8 participate in classroom Music tuition, while students from Years 9 to 12 may choose Music as an elective. A wide range of vocal, instrumental and choral ensembles is offered from year 4, with specialist instrumental tutors on site. The College boasts a number of bands and ensembles who perform regularly at College and civic functions.

Our specialist Performing Arts facilities allow for extensive Dance and Drama programs, with both disciplines proving very popular with students. The Mary MacKillop Centre and Emmaus Hall provide our students with unrivalled centres for Performing Arts, with classroom and performance space. Both venues house a fully-equipped stage with state of the art technical facilities.

We also have a digital editing studio, designed for use by students studying Film, Television and New Media, which incorporates the latest editing software, in addition to cameras and recording equipment.

The highlight of our College calendar is our musical, which creates a great deal of excitement and interest. With a cast of hundreds from Prep to Year 12 and held every two years, it’s one of Townsville’s premier school events.
Enthusiasm

At Ryan, we focus on the wholeness of students — heart, mind, body and soul. Our Physical Education programs, sporting and co-curricular activities are aimed at enhancing physical skills and fostering an enthusiastic participation in all that life has to offer.

An extensive Physical Education program, ranging from the development of energetic sporting skills to representation at national level, is designed to promote a healthy lifestyle and active participation.

From Prep to Year 10, all students participate in class activities designed to develop physical coordination, fitness and a healthy lifestyle.

From Year 5 onwards, students participate in sporting opportunities both at school and for the College, giving them a chance to be part of a team, practice cooperation and develop specific skills. The vast array of sports played means there is something for everyone. Our students even undertake international sporting tours, honing their skills and developing life-long friendships with students from other nations.

In addition to sport, there are extensive opportunities for students to participate in other co-curricular activities. Our comprehensive public speaking and debating programs offer students the opportunity to develop the important qualities of self-confidence, teamwork and logical reasoning, thus equipping them with valuable life-long attributes.

Our camps enhance the pastoral care program by adding an outdoor and environmental dimension to activities designed to help students become responsible and self-disciplined young adults. The focus for each camp varies, depending on the year level.

The Church needs you, your enthusiasm, your creativity and the joy that is so characteristic of you.

Pope Francis
(address at World Youth Day Rio 2013)