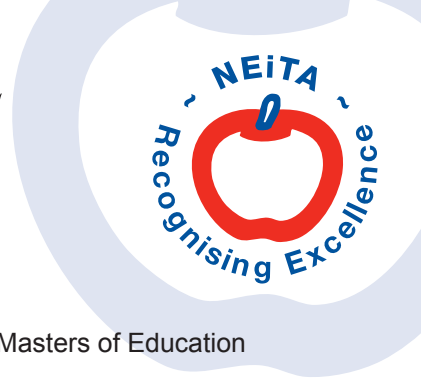


NEiTA 2009 ASG National Teaching Awards

National Award Recipient



Merrick Brewer

Diploma of Teaching (Primary), Bachelor of Teaching (Primary), Masters of Education
(Gifted Education/Constructing Knowledge)

Chairo Christian School, Drouin, Victoria

Nominated by: Committee of Management

National Award Category: Innovation

Position: Head of Middle School • Category: Secondary • Level taught: Middle school • Years teaching: 16 years • Years at this school: 16 years • School type: Independent • Town/Suburb: Drouin • State: Victoria • Postcode: 3818

How do you inspire your students?

I am the Head of the purpose-built Middle School where we place a strong emphasis on catering for individual learning styles. We encourage students to develop their own learning contracts and then to self-assess their way to achieve success. I focus on supporting students to become self-directed learners who are excited about being at school.

Working with students' passions and interests to enhance their education

Merrick Brewer believes that each student's passions and interests hold the key to their learning potential. With 16 years teaching experience, he has seen how a love of learning can be stifled when students are forced to struggle through tasks that they consider irrelevant. Instead, as Head of the Middle School at Chairo Christian School, Merrick keeps his teaching methods relevant by tapping into the passions of each individual student. Once students' interests are uncovered, they are supported by developing their own learning contracts and self-assessment tasks. This method achieves rich learning experiences for his pupils and fosters in them a sense of ownership and pride in their own education. Self-reflection and assessments ensure that relevant learning is transferred across the curriculum areas.

Merrick's aim is to develop self-directed learners, and all learning styles are encouraged. Students are allowed to develop in their own manner, whether they be visual learners, bodily tactile or musical performance learners. Thematic studies and preferred pathways are also employed to bring out the best in each student.

Merrick is an active member of the school's Information and Communication Technology committee, develops staff review systems, and conducts professional development programs for other educators. He is the author of a teachers' resource manual that explains his methods for encouraging students' passions and creating in them a lifelong love of learning.

Contact details:

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