What is Zenith?

How do I apply for the Zenith Program?

The Zenith Program is designed for high performing academic students to support their intellectual development and to help them reach their full potential. The four (4) year program (Years 7–10) fosters the academic, social and emotional growth of students in the critical middle phase of learning.

The program allows high achieving and highly motivated students to be grouped together so that they can be challenged and encouraged by their peers to work hard and continue to excel in their studies. Students in the program are typically self-motivated learners who have a passion for knowledge. They study the foundation subjects of English, Maths, Science, History and Geography in more depth, and complete a range of extension activities.

In Year 9, students study the Zenith specialisation subject, which increases their capacity as critical, creative thinkers and self-reflective learners. Students participate in the Future Problem Solving curriculum and competition, which enhances skills in creative thinking, problem solving, communication and team work. Future Problem Solving is an international education program that focuses on creative and futuristic thinking skills. Above all, it aims to give young people the skills to design and promote positive futures for the society in which they live. The challenging materials of the Future Problem Solving Program are designed to help students learn how to think, not what to think. In this specialisation subject, students can present their work in a variety of formats and they complete reflective learning journals as part of their ongoing assessment. This subject improves students understanding of various learning theories and their own learning styles as well as developing their metacognition skills.

Zenith students complete the same curriculum and sit the same assessment in their core subjects. Extension work occurs in the regular curriculum through a range of means, including negotiated learning experiences, fast tracking, and the selection of more cognitively demanding tasks, community projects and enrichment activities (e.g. STEM, Math Team Challenge).
What types of students are suited to the Zenith Program?

Zenith students are high achieving and academically focused. They enjoy critical, creative thinking and problem solving. They have a passion for learning and are able to demonstrate outstanding academic achievement at primary school, as well as excellent behaviour and effort grades.

How and when do I apply for the Zenith Program?

Enrolment processes begin after Open Day each year. From this date, you will be able to book an enrolment interview and an ACER test which is scheduled for the **15 August 2015**. Zenith applicants undertake the regular enrolment interview process with some additional application requirements (see below). Please note that applications for Zenith are not accepted before Open Day.

Do I need to live in the Kenmore State High School catchment to be accepted into the Zenith Program?

No.

What is entry into the Zenith program based on?

Additional entry requirements for Zenith include the ACER test, specific interview questions (see Enrolment Guide) and report card results. Other supporting documentation provided may also be considered (e.g. UNSW ICAS certificates, Australian Mathematics Competition certificates, NAPLAN reports). Note that the Zenith and ICE application process has changed for 2015. Please refer to Enrolment Guide.

What is the “ACER test”?

The ACER General Ability Tests (AGAT) is a test of general intellectual ability for students in Years 2 to 10. It is designed to assist teachers in their assessment of students’ learning potential and aptitude. A sample of test items is available on our website on the Curriculum tab/ Excellence Programs.

When and how does my child need to sit the ACER test?

ACER tests can be completed on the enrolment interview day - Saturday 15 August 2015. In most instances, families elect to sit the ACER test on the same day as the enrolment interview. Students complete the test in an online format. The test typically takes around 40 minutes.
Can my child enrol in Zenith and other signature programs (e.g. ICE, GIEP and MEX)?

No. The Zenith program is incompatible with both the ICE and German Immersion Programs. Numbers permitting, a Zenith/MEX combination is sometimes possible.

How many Zenith places are offered each year?

We enrol **one (1) class** of Zenith students each year (approximately 28 students).

When will we be advised of the status of our enrolment application?

The first round of Zenith offers will be made the week commencing 14 September 2015. Round two offers will be made the week commencing 26 October 2015. Subsequent offers are made throughout the remainder of the school year.

Should you have any further queries related to Zenith Program at Kenmore State High School, please feel free to contact our Head of Department - Junior Secondary, Angela Malone.

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