COURAGEOUS EXPLORATIONS

Task Overview:

The purpose of the Aspire Learning Portfolio is to provide a clearer understanding of the students' critical, creative, inquiry and evaluative skills. Within this Learning Portfolio, high potential and gifted students will explore the concept of 'Courage' through a multidisciplinary approach, allowing them to showcase their capabilities and potential in one or more of the four Domains of Learning.

Students will engage in investigations, critical and creative expression, real-world applications, and personal reflection to demonstrate their understanding of 'Courage' and apply their unique strengths and skills to do so.

Each section of the Learning Portfolio is designed to demonstrate different skills and knowledge of the student, and to highlight areas of potential or giftedness. Each section has the task requirement, guiding questions, and there is also an exemplar and marking criteria at the end of the document to support the completion of this Learning Portfolio. The guiding questions are not set questions students have to address in their responses but are designed to guide the thinking and development process of each section of the Learning Portfolio.

The completed Learning Portfolio is to be brought along to the student's interview, held in Week 3 of Term 3.

If at any stage, you or your child are unsure how to complete the section, I encourage you to contact the Aspire Coordinator at Callaghan College Wallsend Campus, Miss Viv Fekete at the following email address: viv.fekete@det.nsw.edu.au

Section 1: Historical Exploration

In this first section, students are required to select an historical event or figure that exemplifies the concept of 'Courage'. Students should provide an overview of what they find in their investigation and examine the relevance of how/why it has been important in developing their understanding of 'Courage'.

This section can be in any format that you choose but should be <u>equivalent to 300 words of written information</u>. **See Appendix 2 for a list of example presentation formats to choose from**.

Guiding Questions:

- What historical event or figure do you find particularly courageous? You can conduct research on this to deepen your understanding.
- What specific actions or qualities demonstrate courage in the context of your investigation?
- How did the historical context influence the display of courage? Why do you think this might be?
- Do you think that the same event/figure in the modern world today would have the same implications/impacts? Why or why not?

Section 2: Creative Expression

In this section, students need to demonstrate their understanding of the concept of 'Courage', by choosing a mode of expression that best suits them, their skills, talents, and interests. They should take into consideration how their chosen medium allows them to convey the concept of courage and how it relates to their area of giftedness or potential.

Some examples of presentation formats for this include, but are not limited to:

Intellectual Domain – an essay; write a newspaper article; hold a mock court case.
Creative Domain – compose a song/rap; create a short documentary; design a comic strip story; write and perform a skit.
Physical Domain – create a sporting event; make an instructional video; create a hands-on gameshow; create and perform a cheer.
Social-Emotional Domain – design an awareness campaign; hold a discussion panel/debate with "experts"; assemble a time capsule; write an advice column or newsletter.

This section can be in any format that you choose but should be underlined to 300 words of written information. **See Appendix 2 for a list of example presentation formats to choose from**.

Students should include the following elements:

1. Their own definition/understanding of what 'Courage' is.
2. What the purpose or relevance of 'Courage' is in the modern world.
3. Ways that you can grow/build 'Courage' as an individual/group.

Guiding Questions:

- What is courage to you, and why is it important to have in the world today?
- How does your chosen mode of expression allow you to convey the concept of 'Courage'?
- In what ways does your creative expression reflect your understanding of 'Courage'?

Section 3: Real-World Application

In this section of the Learning Portfolio, students will be required to identify a real-world problem or issue that requires courage to address. Students should clearly outline the problem/issue, propose a solution, and consider the potential impacts and challenges of their proposed solution.

This section can be in any format that you choose but should be underlined to 300 words of written information. **See Appendix 2 for a list of example presentation formats to choose from**.

Guiding Questions:

- Can you apply critical and abstract thinking to identify a real-world problem/issue that requires courage to address or solve?
- What is your proposed solution, and how/why does it work?
- What elements of your solution demonstrate originality and creativity?
- How does courage explicitly tie in with your proposed solution?
- What are the potential outcomes/implications for your proposed solution?
- How can you ensure that your proposed solution is relevant, or has a meaningful impact in the real world?

Section 4: Personal Reflection

In the final section of the Learning Portfolio, students will reflect on an occasion where they demonstrated or witnessed courage. Students should consider emotions, actions, and outcomes of the experience and relate it to their own personal strengths/skills.

This section **MUST** be in a written format and has a minimum requirement of 250 words.

Guiding Questions:

- When have you demonstrated courage or witnessed it?
- How did the experience of demonstrating/witnessing courage impact your growth as a young person?
- What did you learn about yourself/others from this experience, and how does it relate to your understanding of 'Courage'?
- In what ways has this experience influenced your perspective on courage and its relevance in your life and/or the world around you?

Marking Criteria:

The interview panel will be assessing the students' capabilities using the criteria below, which will be collated alongside the data from the Entrance Exam to determine placement of students into the Aspire Program at Wallsend Campus in 2025. Students should aim for Exceeding Expectations in all criteria outlined below. If you have any questions regarding this criteria, please contact the Aspire Coordinator Viv Fekete by email: viv.fekete@det.nsw.edu.au

Skills	Needs Developing	Meeting Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
Critical and Creative Thinking	Demonstrates limited critical thinking and creativity in exploring the concept of 'Courage'	Demonstrates effective critical and creative thinking in expressing understanding of the concept of 'Courage' through chosen activities	Demonstrates exceptional critical and creative thinking, showcasing original and innovative approaches to exploring the concept of 'Courage' through chosen activities
Abstract/ Flexible Reasoning	Struggles to apply abstract or flexible reasoning in engaging with the concept of 'Courage'	Applies abstract and flexible reasoning to explore the multifaceted aspects of 'Courage' in a variety of contexts	Consistently applies abstract and flexible reasoning to deeply analyse and interpret the concept of 'Courage' in diverse and complex ways
Focus on Concept	Demonstrates limited understanding of the concept of 'Courage' and its relevance overall	Demonstrates a clear understanding of the concept of 'Courage' and effectively integrates it into chosen activities	Demonstrates a deep and nuanced understanding of the concept of 'Courage' effectively integrating it into all aspects of the task with insightful exploration
Real-World Relevance	Shows limited connection between the concept of 'Courage' and real-world applications	Demonstrates a clear connection between the concept of 'Courage' and real-world relevance in chosen activities	Demonstrates a profound understanding of the real-world relevance of 'Courage', effectively applying it to diverse and meaningful real-world contexts
Originality	Shows limited originality in chosen activities related to the concept of 'Courage'	Demonstrates original and unique approaches in expressing understanding of 'Courage' through chosen activities	Demonstrates exceptional originality, showcasing innovative and groundbreaking approaches in expressing understanding of 'Courage' in chosen activities

Appendix 1:

Exemplar Response for Section 3: Real-world Application

* All information utilised here is fictional and is not intended to replicate or mimic real-world people, or events. *

<u>Student Name</u>: Sarah

<u>Domain Specialty</u>: Intellectual

<u>Proposal</u>: Addressing Environmental Injustice

<u>Identified Real-World Problem</u>: Sarah has identified the issue of environmental injustice in her local community, where marginalised neighbourhoods are disproportionately affected by pollution and lack of access to green spaces. She recognises the courage required to confront systemic environmental inequalities.
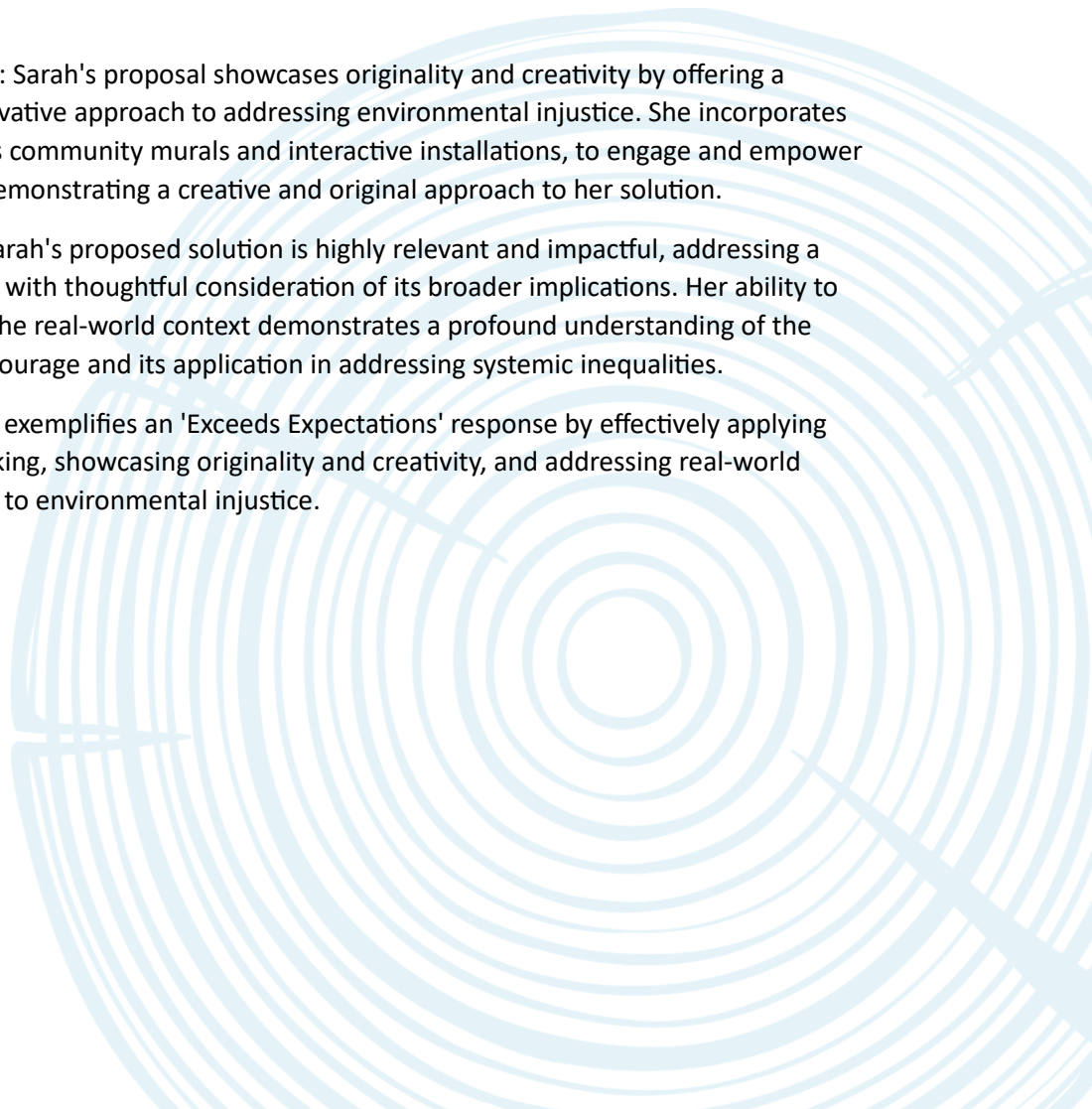
<u>Proposed Solution</u>: Sarah has proposed a community-led initiative to create urban green spaces in the affected neighbourhoods, aiming to address environmental injustice and improve community well-being. Her solution involves collaborating with local organisations, conducting environmental impact assessments, and advocating for policy changes to promote environmental equity through an awareness campaign that she has designed.

<u>Critical and Abstract Thinking</u>: Sarah demonstrates critical and abstract thinking by analysing the root causes of environmental injustice and envisioning a multifaceted solution. She considers the complex interplay of social, environmental, and political factors, showcasing a nuanced understanding of the issue.

<u>Originality and Creativity</u>: Sarah's proposal showcases originality and creativity by offering a comprehensive and innovative approach to addressing environmental injustice. She incorporates artistic elements, such as community murals and interactive installations, to engage and empower the affected residents, demonstrating a creative and original approach to her solution.

<u>Real-World Relevance</u>: Sarah's proposed solution is highly relevant and impactful, addressing a pressing real-world issue with thoughtful consideration of its broader implications. Her ability to connect her solution to the real-world context demonstrates a profound understanding of the real-world relevance of courage and its application in addressing systemic inequalities.

Overall, Sarah's proposal exemplifies an 'Exceeds Expectations' response by effectively applying critical and abstract thinking, showcasing originality and creativity, and addressing real-world relevance in her solution to environmental injustice.

Appendix 2: Presentation Formats

- Create a poster
- Make a PowerPoint presentation
- Design a model
- Make a shoebox diorama
- Use a 3-panel display board
- Make a timeline
- Create a board game incorporating key elements.
- Write a poem.
- Write and perform a skit
- Make a TV or radio commercial
- Make a collage
- Make a mobile
- Create a test about the topic
- Make a word search
- Make a crossword puzzle
- Write a report.
- Create a flow chart or diagram
- Write an interview of a relevant person
- Create questions and an answer key
- Write journal/diary entries
- Write a postcard or letter exchange
- Create a scrapbook
- Create a photo album
- Make an instructional video
- Give a presentation
- Create an interactive notebook
- Create a set of task cards.
- Make a pamphlet or brochure
- Write a newspaper article
- Perform a puppet show
- Hold a debate
- Hold a mock court case
- Create an episode of a reality show
- Create a game show
- Have a panel discussion of "experts"
- Compose a rap or other song
- Use a Venn diagram to compare two aspects of the topic
- Design a comic strip about the topic
- Create a children's story. about the topic
- Create a map
- Write a fable or myth. about the topic
- Create a help wanted advertisement and a letter/resume to answer it
- Write a text message dialogue relevant to the topic
- Write a series of tweets relevant to the topic
- Create a Facebook wall relative to the topic
- Create a Pinterest board relative to the topic

- Start a blog
- Decorate a box. and fill with relevant objects
- Create a foldable
- Create a flip book
- Create a Cootie Catcher
- Create a cereal based on the topic (cover a cereal box)
- Assemble a time capsule
- Create several bookmarks. about different aspects of the topic
- Write a recipe relevant to the topic (good for showing causes of an event)
- Do a newscast
- Write an acrostic poem
- Create an Internet scavenger hunt
- Write an advice column with several problems related to the topic
- Create flash cards or trivia cards
- Create a cheer relevant to the topic
- Make a short documentary film
- Create a museum exhibit
- Create a top 10 list relevant to the topic
- Create a video game
- Make a "Choose Your Own Adventure"
- Create a mini book with one fact/idea per page
- Create a glossary of relevant terms
- Make a paper chain with a different fact for each link
- Make a flower with a different fact for each petal
- Write a handbook. or instruction book
- Create a newsletter
- Create an app
- Create a 3D Printed or Digital model

You are only limited by your criteria and imagination!