



## **The MGS Intergenerational Learning Programme** *Co-building a purpose-driven community to learn and to serve*

To enrich the MGS education experience with a deeper sense of purpose and bring to its fore a heart for community, nation and world, a whole-school embracement of community learning and serving will shape our next bound - reflective of our motto 'To Master, To Grow, To Serve' that has remained core to our 136 years of history and heritage.

Our two purpose anchors of *MGLearns* and *MGServes* are lived out through a deep learning-centred total curriculum, where positive and authentic relationships fostered through partnerships with stakeholders and the external environment enable us to learn meaningfully from the wider community beyond MGS, as we collectively leverage and channel our diverse talents and resources towards serving those who are in need.

As we prepare our students for a life of learning, leading and serving, we believe that the success of our students lies in how much they contribute and make a positive impact in society.

### **The Intergenerational Learning (IGL) Model and Centre @ MGS**

In response to the need for greater compassion, unity and positive action, knowing that we have much to learn about, learn with and learn from the community, MGS has spearheaded the setting up of an Intergenerational Learning Centre within our school campus - the first of its kind in Singapore that physically integrates the community with a full school as part of our Community-in-School focus.

The centre will pilot and promote intergenerational learning between youths and the elderly through an asset-based approach that draws on the expertise and experience of both age profiles. With the rapidly changing national age demography, intentional promoting of intergenerational understanding and respect becomes a critical dimension of strengthening our social compact and civic consciousness.

IGL @ MGS aims to encourage intergenerational bonding by matching youths and seniors in a group learning environment. Seniors and students from MGS can choose to volunteer and collaborate with each other to learn and to initiate intergenerational projects together. IGL @ MGS uses a value exchange model with opportunities for meaningful contributions and personal development for both seniors and students.

MGS hopes to lead youths in contributing towards building new knowledge and capacities, with a view to scale this innovation across more schools in Singapore via training and opportunities for students from other schools to volunteer and collaborate with our MGS community and seniors. The school is also working with agencies and institutions on research in IGL and geragogy as a whole-ecosystem approach, and will be joined by Methodist Welfare Services as the anchor Social Service Agency partner for IGL @ MGS.

## **The MGS IGL Programme**

In order that MGLearns and MGServes, MGS has sand-boxed several IGL activities in the past months, building on our previous years of experience in engaging the elderly in the community. These initiatives, which have involved both grandparents from within MGS families as well as seniors from the wider community, include a mix of both student and senior-initiated activities such as crocheting and guitar workshops, Christmas wreath-making, calligraphy, nature photography and cooking classes.

The value proposition of IGL @ MGS lies in the intentionality and structure in tailoring its purpose towards student learning. Hence it combines both learning and serving in a multi-dimensional model, with IGL infused into the MGS education experience through curriculum and co-curriculum.

Service-learning for IGL begins with our students' voice, interests and strengths to shape what they might want to learn and how they might want to serve. The seniors are engaged and brought into this new dynamic with their knowledge, experience and passions to co-learn and co-serve with our students. In this regard, service is a many-hands approach, a whole-of-community action, powered by a sense of agency and ownership engendered in youth and seniors.

At MGS, we want to recognise and affirm our seniors as a valued part of a wider learning ecosystem. Our seniors embody lifelong learning and by putting the different generations together in the IGL programme, our students and seniors encourage one another to step out of their comfort zones, while forging authentic connections and bonds through shared experiences.

## **Launch of IGL**

The 2023 MGS Carnival fundraising effort supports the preparation of the campus and related IGL programmes. The IGL Centre in MGS will be officially launched on 25th July 2023, during our school's Founder's Day celebrations to commemorate our 136th anniversary.

As we continue to enhance platforms to provide real-world learning and exposure for our students, broaden their perspectives and build character and citizenship that imbue a greater sense of service, connection and love for Singapore, the MGS education experience will take on more profound meaning in nurturing our students in being and becoming Godly women of Excellence with a heart of Love.



Building a purpose-driven MGS community that seeks to be and become our best selves for our nation and our world, through an enriched education experience where learning and serving is a virtuous cycle.



## THE MGS IGL STORY

At MGS, we believe that we have much to learn about, learn with and learn from community. To pilot and promote Intergenerational Learning between youths and seniors, the MGS IGL centre located within our school campus physically integrates community with school. As a platform to bring about personal development and meaningful contributions across generations while advancing intergenerational understanding and respect, the MGS IGL Programme is a veritable social innovation that engenders agency and empowerment in both youths and seniors, and fosters authentic connections through the shared experiences of learning and serving together. IGL @ MGS epitomises our school purpose anchors - MGLearns & MGServes, and deepens our engagement with and impact on Singapore and the world beyond.

### CORE TENETS

Matching great experience with great potential - a value-exchange model drawing on the experience and expertise of both age profiles

Sharing, leveraging and optimising resources, knowledge and capabilities in a whole-ecosystem partnership approach

Charting a long term course to lead youths across schools for positive action to strengthen our nation's social compact and civic consciousness



### CONNECT WITH US:

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