

*Balcatta Senior High School.*

# **GIFTED &**

*Visual Art Scholarship Program.*

# *Talented.*





## Gifted and Talented Visual Art Scholarship Program

### ***Background***

The Gifted and Talented Visual Arts program was established at Balcatta Senior High School in 1979 as Special Art, and realized 30 years of excellence in 2009. Our prestigious Visual Arts program produces graduates highly regarded by tertiary institutions and arts industry due to our tradition of excellence and reputation for success. Past students include Oscar award winner, animator, artist and writer Shaun Tan.

Only students who demonstrate talent in the Visual Arts are selected to attend the Art Program at Balcatta Senior High School following rigorous statewide practical art testing. Students enrolled at Year 7 continue with their studies through to Year 12.

## ***Program***

The Balcatta Senior High School Gifted and Talented Visual Arts Program is a scholarship program offered to students identified as Gifted and Talented in the Visual Arts. In this school, the program hinges around out of school classes that are run on Saturday mornings between 9.00am and 12.30pm. Artists from the local community are employed as tutors for these classes, thus providing students with a unique opportunity to gain an understanding of how their art-making fits into the larger community.

Balcatta Senior High School boasts purpose-built facilities that include the Ron Murphy Gallery, Ceramics and Print studios as well as a computer-based Graphics and Photography Lab, within the Art Department. These facilities allow students to access techniques and art-making processes other programs may not be able to provide. Each student has the opportunity to pursue their own interests and strengths developing a personal style of art practice through trying out new ideas and skills.

During the week, students will participate in classes as part of their regular timetable. Some of these classes will be as part of regular classes within the Arts Learning Area; some of the classes will be run as a Gifted and Talented Visual Arts group. They will also have access to courses in Design & Technology, Languages, Dance, Drama, Computing and all Learning Areas.

The Gifted and Talented Visual Arts Program aims, through enrichment and extension, to develop artistic ability and visual aesthetic awareness. Activities are planned to offer students over five years, a wide variety of art encounters and challenges in many forms of visual and performing arts. Activities such as painting, ceramics, sculpture, drawing, printmaking, photography, graphic design, textiles, animation, fashion design, jewellery and so on are undertaken. Students benefit from being members of a privileged art community.

While the course is not vocationally focussed, some students do inevitably set their sights on further tertiary studies in the arts. In these instances, their participation in Gifted and Talented Visual Arts give them an edge.



## **Career Opportunities**

Students who work in the Arts Learning Area have a diverse range of career opportunities across a broad skills base incorporating the following:

Advertising:	<i>Graphic Design, Marketing,</i>
Architecture:	<i>Environmental Design, Landscape Design, Civic Design,</i>
Arts Management:	<i>Gallery Management, Curator, Gallery Sets, Consultant, Purchasing Curator,</i>
Design:	<i>Interior Design, Carpet Design, Fabric Design, Fashion Design,</i>
Film and Screen:	<i>Set Design, Lighting Design, Animation and Game Design, Special FX Design, Model-making,</i>
Fine Art:	<i>Public Artworks, Artist-in-Residencies, Prizes/Sponsorships/Grants, Commissions, Personal Studio Management,</i>
Photography:	<i>Digital Media, Graphic Design,</i>
Teaching:	<i>Primary, Secondary, Tertiary, Lecturing, Art Therapy, Occupational Therapy,</i>
Theatre:	<i>Costume Design, Set Design, Lighting Design,</i>

These seemingly different careers all depend on visual imagery and aesthetic understanding for success. All require skilled, creative and adaptable people able to work in teams. Arts Practice, which depends on high performance and develops key cognitive and competency skills (analysis, synthesis, creativity and decision-making), can help equip our young people for success in the 21st century.

## **Awards**

Students in the Gifted and Talented Visual Arts courses may receive awards and frequent recognition from their participation. Creativity Awards are presented at exhibitions, Excellence Awards are given at the end of Year 10 and Year 12, as is the Bevan Hill Acquisition Prize for a Year 12 artwork.

## **Exhibition Opportunities**

As part of their involvement in this Scholarship Program, many students are offered opportunities to submit their work for competitions and exhibitions available in the wider Art community. These include: The Young Originals, Metamorphosis, Perspectives Exhibitions for Year 12s, and various community exhibitions.



## ***Code of Conduct***

A student accepted in this program is expected to maintain a high level of application, behaviour, dress and attendance. Maintaining good personal management and self-discipline is imperative in this kind of course. Consistent attendance at all classes and functions demonstrates a commitment level that is indicative of a student motivated for success in this field.

There are times when an out-of-hours commitment will be expected, such as for exhibition openings, where students and their families are encouraged to participate fully.

The school Dress Code is required from all Gifted and Talented Visual Arts students for weekday attendance. While Dress Code is not required on Saturdays, an appropriate dress requirement would be to wear clothes that allow the full participation in all activities.

Any issues arising out of a student's inability to sustain these high standards will be addressed in consultation with the student, the parents, the Tutor and the School Administration as deemed necessary by the Coordinator.

## ***Selection Process***

The normal point of entry into the program is in Year 8, however, a small number of special placements may be available in Years 9, 10 and 11. All applications should be forwarded to the school by the end of Term One.

To be given a scholarship in this program, a student must participate in a testing and interview process, usually held during Term Two. The testing and interview process will be outlined to you after your application form has been received at the school.



## ***Withdrawals from the Program***

Students who are unable to maintain the high level of application to their academic program, behaviour, dress code or attendance will have their involvement in the program reconsidered. Through several levels of consultation between parents, students, tutors, coordinator and school administration, each student's case will be discussed and negotiated following the strategies laid out in the BMIS Policy of Balcatta Senior High School.

Students who are no longer able to be a part of this program, due to moving too far away, family commitments or change of career focus, are to provide a formal Letter of Resignation from their Parent/guardian clearly stating the reasons directed to the Coordinator.

## ***Excursions***

There are many occasions when your student will be invited to attend gallery, drawing and studio excursions. These are often available only because of the selected artist working with your students on Saturday mornings. These excursions are usually once a term.

Some of these events can be costly others are not, while each requires a small bus fee to be met to cover the cost of the transport. For most excursions, the school buses are driven by volunteer parent drivers.

## ***Costs***

For Saturday classes, all tuition fees for artists and teachers engaged as Tutors are met by the Dept of Education. In addition, a grant is made each year to assist in covering the cost of consumable materials. To assist in covering the cost of materials, equipment and consumables on the Saturday classes there is a compulsory fee charged additionally to the regular school fees. Please check your booklist carefully for this information.

Any costs incurred for camps or excursions as well as particularly expensive materials selected by the student will be additional to this fee as negotiated with the Coordinator. (These costs should not be confused with the general school fees and art subject fees which apply for each course selected.)





## ***Parent Support***

Parents have an important role to play in helping students to maximise the benefits of this Program. These children will, at times, need encouragement and sometimes support in the form of physical presence. During the interview process, you will be asked about the level of commitment you think this program will require and whether you have considered these aspects of your student's enrolment in the program. For many families it is about choosing a Special Art Scholarship over regular family events, other sporting activities or even long weekends away. All of these things need to be considered in your application.

The Parent Committee is very active and runs regular events to promote the program and to assist in any way they feel they can. Some activities can include being available to help with bus driving. Contacting this group directly will allow you to participate in your child's education as well as providing you with a support group of like-minded people.

## ***Contact Details***

### **Balcatta Senior High School.**

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