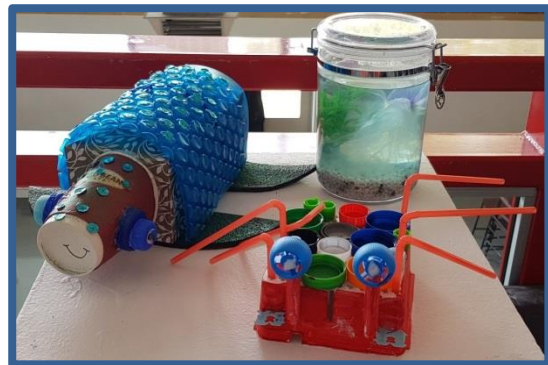




Balcatta

Senior High School
Independent Public School



SPECIALIST PROGRAMS

GIFTED AND TALENTED VISUAL ART

For students previously accepted into this program

Aims

Our Gifted and Talented Visual Art program provides students with the opportunity to learn through a mix of visual enquiry, studio work, exhibition and critical reflection. Gallery visits, art camps, art workshops and exposure to new mediums and technologies are all part of the program designed to help students achieve their artistic potential.

Students have access to excellent facilities, specialised teachers and professional artists in many specialist areas. They benefit from exhibiting their own work, both internally and externally and being actively involved with community programs.

Selection into the Program

The Balcatta Senior High School Gifted and Talented Visual Art Program (GAT) is offered to students identified as gifted and talented in the visual arts, usually in Year 6, for entry into Year 7. Students are selected through an external testing process run by the Department of Education, which is partly an academic test, but mostly based on student work produced in a practical day-long test, plus an interview. Students with a natural creative gift can develop their artistic skills and knowledge in this exciting program.

Structure of the Program

During the week, students participate in classes as part of their regular timetable. Some of these classes are part of regular classes within the Arts learning area; some classes will be run as a Gifted and Talented Visual Art group.

The program also runs on Saturday mornings between 9.00 am and 12.30 pm. 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.

Activities such as painting, ceramics, sculpture, drawing, print-making, photography, graphic design, textiles, animation, fashion design, jewellery etc are included in the program.

Evaluation

Gifted and Talented Visual Art reports will be issued through the school reporting system.

More information about the GAT program and application process is available on the Department of Education's website or you can contact our Gifted and Talented Visual Art Co-ordinator at Sherree.Tomlinson@education.wa.edu.au.



VISUAL ART

For students who wish to gain a placement in the Gifted and Talented Visual Art Program.

Aims

The selection process for the Gifted and Talented Visual Art program begins when students are in Year 5, however, a number of special placements may be available for interested visual art students in Year 7 to Year 11 who have not yet been accepted into the Gifted and Talented Visual Art program.

Selection into the Program

Students who have a passion for the visual arts and would like an opportunity to work on their skills and techniques are able to apply for a position in our program.

All students will be invited to join our Saturday classes. They will not be officially recognised as Gifted and Talented Visual Art students until they have completed the official testing process, however, the course will provide them with a pathway towards excellence in Visual Art and foster growth in this area. As part of their involvement in this program, students will be offered opportunities to submit their work for competitions and exhibitions available in the wider art community.

Selection for places will be based on the submission of:

- this application form; and
- a folio of work (to be presented at the interview)

Structure of the Program

Classes run for the school year and students are encouraged to work towards applying for the Gifted and Talented top-up testing when applications open late in the year.

A compulsory component of the Visual Art program involves attendance at Saturday morning workshops between 9.00 am and 12.30 pm. The cost of the program is \$275, which covers the cost of all materials used for the Saturday morning Visual Art classes and the specialist art tutors.

Evaluation

Visual Art reports will be issued through the school reporting system.



SPECIALIST DANCE

Aims

The Approved Specialist Program (ASP) in Dance at Balcatta Senior High School is one of a few specialised dance programs in Western Australia and is conducted in our own dance studio. We provide tuition of the highest quality in areas such as contemporary dance, jazz/hip hop, classical ballet technique, choreography, improvisation, as well as other related areas of study in history, kinesiology, dance analysis and stage production.

Selection into the Program

Entry into the ASP Dance Program is by audition, which are run each term. Interested students will be contacted by the Dance Co-ordinator with the date of their auditions.

Structure of the Program

Specialist Dance students are required to participate in three major performances each year; in June, August and November. In addition, students are often invited to perform at various school-based and community events. The school also has very close working links to the WA Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), Co3 and the West Australian Ballet.

Past students have successfully been accepted into WAAPA and have proceeded to perform and choreograph either as independent artists or in professional dance companies in Perth, around Australia and world-wide.

Studies have shown that an Arts-infused education benefits students by developing and enhancing their life skills in areas such as:

- Leadership
- Teamwork
- Problem-Solving
- Creative and Reflective Thinking
- Goal Setting
- Organisational Skills

Auditions will be held during the year for entry into Year 7.

Evaluation

Specialist Dance reports will be issued through the school reporting system.



MUSIC

Aims

Balcatta Senior High School offers a dynamic Music program for students entering Year 7. We facilitate pathways into and beyond senior school courses. It will include listening and composing skills

Selection into the Program

Interested IMSS instrumental students are automatically accepted into the Music program.

Other students will be considered on an individual basis.

Structure of the Program

IMSS is a Department of Education program which delivers instrumental lessons to schools, free of charge, for selected students with aptitude.

Students are engaged in a Class Music program, enriched with an Instrumental Music program in cohort with the Instrumental Music School Services (IMSS). Opportunities and experiences in Music will be many and varied, covering a rich scope of learning activities and events in engagement and performance, which include excursions or incursions with people from the industry. and will immerse our students and school in all the elements of music and how they interact.

Instrumental teachers will visit our school during school hours to deliver instrumental lessons to selected students, in small groups of approximately five (5) students per class.

There will be two (2) periods per week of a music class, plus an instrumental music class and ensemble rehearsals (approximately one (1) hour per week), provided by the Instrumental Music School Services. Activities in the music class will be varied, but will include listening and composing skills and looking at the elements of music and how they interact. Some music students will be required to attend classroom music classes before school one (1) day per week.

There will be a number of performance opportunities throughout the year where students will be given a chance to demonstrate what they have learnt.

Evaluation

Music and Instrumental Music reports will be issued through the school reporting system.



ACADEMIC EXTENSION PROGRAM

Balcatta Senior High School is committed to providing opportunities for academic extension and enrichment for high achieving students. At the core of one of our school values, "excel", is the desire to keep all students engaged in active learning where they strive to achieve excellence in all aspects of their schooling.

We offer a selective entry academic extension program that encourages students to strengthen their critical and creative thinking, problem-solving skills and higher order thinking. The program brings together like-minded, high achieving students to accelerate their learning across all learning areas. Students are exposed to problem-based and co-operative learning strategies that provide stimulation and challenge to each learning experience.

The academic extension program also provides students with the opportunity to participate in a range of extra-curricular activities designed to maximise their achievement across a wide range of skills. These programs include participation in the Western Australian Debating League, the Maths Olympiad program and ICAS testing - designed to reward and recognise student achievement.

Aims

The Academic Extension Program offers:

- the acceleration of students through the standard Western Australian Curriculum.
- extension and enrichment opportunities across Mathematics, English, Science, and Humanities and Social Sciences (MESH) subjects with a specific focus on developing students' creativity, problem solving and critical thinking skills.
- the opportunity for students to work as a team with like-minded peers.

Selection into the Program

To apply for the Academic Extension Program, parents must supply the following information:

- Application form
- Most recent school report
- Year 5 NAPLAN results
- Primary teacher's recommendation form

Students are then invited to a selection day during which they sit an aptitude test and participate in problem-solving and creativity activities.

Students' selection into the program is based on all aspects of their application, including their performance on the selection day.

Structure of the program

Students in the program are placed in the same MESH classes where students work towards mastering the Western Australian curriculum and take part in enrichment activities that will provide them with the opportunity to explore the content more deeply and further develop their higher-order thinking skills. Students will also, where appropriate, be exposed to content from further year levels.

In addition to shared MESH subjects, students are also placed in the same Mentor class, which meets once a week. This class time is used to work on academic enrichment projects, challenges and competitions.

As part of the Academic Extension Program, all students will participate in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) tests in Science, Writing, English and Mathematics. This provides important information about student performance and learning.

This program commences in Year 7 and continues through Year 8 and Year 9.

Evaluation

To maintain placement in the program, students must uphold a high standard of academic achievement and behaviour. Students' performance will be evaluated at the end of each semester.



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