

Specialist Programs



Balcatta Senior High School has four specialist programs available for interested students. Limited places will be available in each program and interviews and/or auditions may be required prior to acceptance into the programs.

Please complete the on-line form if you wish to apply for any of these programs.

GIFTED AND TALENTED VISUAL ART

Aims

Our Gifted and Talented Visual Art program provides students with outstanding creative opportunities to enrich and extend their artistic ideas, skills and processes. They learn through a differentiated curriculum with a variety of visual inquiry, studio work, exhibitions and critical and historical reflection.

Selection into the Program

The selection process is managed by the Gifted and Talented Selection Unit through the Department of Education.

Applicants must sit the Academic Selective Entrance Test (ASET) and participate in aptitude testing workshops and interviews. Workshops test both written and practical skills. Testing for Year 7 applicants is conducted externally by the Gifted and Talented Selection Unit in Year 6.

Successful applicants are offered interviews on-site at Balcatta Senior High School. Details of what to bring to the interview are sent out at the time of offer. These include the most recent NAPLAN results, school report, teacher reference, any certificates of merit or other achievements and portfolio of artwork. Offers are made by the Gifted and Talented Selection Unit based on final rankings.

Applicants in Years 9 to 11 are required to sit the test and interview at Balcatta Senior High School, however, the applications are processed by the selection unit. Balcatta Senior High School does not make offers of placement direct to applicants for any year levels, nor can feedback be provided regarding an applicant's progress.

It is advisable to register your interest from March to ensure you receive news and reminders about application testing. Applications open from October of the same year to the following February.

Structure of the Program

During the week, students participate in specialist visual art classes as part of their regular timetable.

A compulsory component of this program involves attendance at Saturday morning workshops between 9.00 am and 12.30 pm. The cost of the program is \$295, which covers the cost of all materials used for the Saturday morning Visual Art classes and the specialist art tutors. 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 Gifted and Talented Visual Art program and application process is available on the Department of Education's website. Please take note of important dates, as late applications are not accepted. or you can contact our Gifted and Talented Visual Art Co-ordinator at <https://www.education.wa.edu.au/gifted-and-talented>.

SPECIALIST DANCE

Aims

The Approved Specialist Program (ASP) in Dance at Balcatta Senior High School is one of a few specialist 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

To apply for a position in this program, please submit the application for the Dance program. You will be advised of the audition details by mail in the lead-up to the event.

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

Evaluation

Specialist Dance reports will be issued through the school reporting system and student performance will be evaluated at the end of each semester.



MUSIC

Aims

Instrumental Music School Services (IMSS) is a Department of Education program which delivers instrumental lessons to schools, free of charge, for selected students with aptitude.

Balcatta Senior High School offers a dynamic Music program for students entering Year 7 which facilitates pathways into and beyond senior school courses.

Selection into the Program

To apply for a position in our program, please submit the application for our Music program. You will be advised of the audition details by mail in the lead-up to the event.

Primary school students who are currently enrolled in the IMSS program, and are keen to continue the program in high school, will be automatically accepted into our Music program (an application form is still required).

Structure of the Program

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

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

There will be several 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 and student performance will be evaluated at the end of each semester.



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.

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 to Year 10.

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.