

Warrandyte High School

Warrandyte High School's mission is to challenge every learner within a safe and supportive environment. This core purpose is underpinned by our values of excellence, integrity and respect.

In order to achieve this, Years 7&8 students undertake a program of core and practical classes. As well, there are opportunities for students to learn in multidisciplinary project teams. The Year 9 program is enriched through electives and this is extended in Year 10. We offer a range of post-compulsory subjects including VET as well as enrichment programs.

Our 640 students come from a range of different primary schools. On the fringe of the metropolitan area, the community of Warrandyte is similar to a country town. The school has excellent relationships with local community groups such as Rotary, Lions and the CFA. Only a low proportion of students come from families where English is the second language.

The School has 3 Principal Class, 59 equivalent full time staff and 15 Educational Support Staff. Staff participate in dynamic professional learning programs centered around sharing expertise.

Warrandyte High School has excellent academic outcomes and over 95% of students continue to university or TAFE. The school is proud of its record of ensuring positive career pathways for students.

*Every
child,
every
opportunity*

Student Learning

When compared to schools with similar characteristics, Warrandyte High School students are achieving similar results in VELS and Year 7 NAPLAN. In 2008, teacher assessments against VELS English and Mathematics were in the top 20%.

Student performance in Year 9 NAPLAN was not at expected levels and improvement of Year 9 student achievement in reading and numeracy will be a key priority in 2010 through the innovative Active Learning Projects for Years 7&8 initiated in 2009.

Our 2009 VCE results are similar to results of schools with similar characteristics.

Student learning will be further supported by the development of a 1:1 laptop program for Year 10 students. This will be enhanced by a comprehensive ICT professional learning program for teachers moving towards the implementation of the Ultranet. In addition, there will be an extensive review of the Year 9&10 teaching and learning programs in 2010 in order to develop a consistent whole school approach to effective teaching and learning with a focus on high expectations of student achievement.

Student Engagement and Wellbeing

Student attendance at Warrandyte High School is within the predicted range given the background characteristics of our students.

In 2009, teams of teachers have worked together closely to meet the needs of Years 7&8 students through their Active Learning Projects. Their sense of belonging has been enhanced by designated home rooms for these year levels.

Each year level of students has had dedicated programs which address their specific social and personal needs. These have included expert speakers from the REACH Foundation and the YMCA. There has been a concerted effort to extend consultative groups at each year level, who support the work of the Student Representative Council.

In 2010, student engagement and wellbeing will be further supported by a range of actions. These include a commitment to team teaching in the new Doig Learning Centre, the expansion of opportunities for student contribution and leadership and finally, a strategic focus on improving attendance through close monitoring and prompt follow up.

Student Pathways and Transitions

Our ability to retain students from Years 7-10 is at a similar level to other government schools given our data on the intake adjusted school summary. In 2008, 66% of students in Year 12 continued to university, 26% went to TAFE and the remaining students had positive pathways to employment.

Student Pathways and Transitions is supported by a vast range of learning opportunities through a comprehensive personalised careers program for Years 10-12, including Work Experience. As well, students can be involved in an enrichment program at Years 10-11 by undertaking a VCE/VET study or GAP or Future Directions program. VCAL is available through our links with other community providers. In 2009, the school introduced a wide ranging Year 12 Orientation program for Year 11 students.

To further support student pathways and transitions, Warrandyte High School will extend the Study Skills program and visits to tertiary institutions at VCE level. The Student Mapping Tool will continue to be used to identify and respond to individual learning needs.