


QUEENSLAND STATE SCHOOL REPORTING - 2010

Merrimac State High School (2147)

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Principal's foreword

Introduction

It is with pride that I present the Merrimac State High School Annual Report for 2010.

This report outlines the significant achievements made by the school's students and staff.

I would like to specifically highlight that:

83% of parents believe Merrimac SHS is a safe school

83% of parents believe Merrimac SHS is a good school

93% of staff feel they have good relationships with the students

The school's motto of "Pride in Excellence" is the driving force behind our quest for constant improvement. While the above data highlights a very successful school, we have identified further areas of improvement which will be the focus for 2011.

Chris Tobin

Principal

School progress towards its goals in 2010

Parents have supported staff in the move towards a Year 8, 9 and 10 Curriculum that closely aligns to the National Curriculum.

Our Middle Phase now has eight subjects that support our National Curriculum implementation during 2010 – 2011.

The school is pleased to improve on our goals of improving both NAPLAN and OP results. The school has improved its Behaviour Management Support by improved processes to keep parents informed of any issues at school. This improvement has led to less disruption in classrooms and greater teaching time on productive learning.

We have also refined the school values after seeking advice from the Student Council. The school is now universally aligned to Respect, Responsibility and Reliability.

Future outlook

Merrimac SHS has developed a strategic plan that guides our direction for the next four years. On a yearly basis we

develop an Operational Plan that sets our targets and goals for the year. While we have a number of specific targets we will be working towards in 2011 our four main goals are:

- To increase to 95% the A, B & C results across all subjects.
- To have 100% completion of VET Certificates.
- Increase the percentage of students achieving Bands 9 & 10 in NAPLAN by 4%.
- School's mean will be greater than the National mean in all measuring.

School Profile

Merrimac State High School provides high quality education for 1300 male and female students from Years 8 to 12. Our student population is very diverse with over 36 nationalities being represented in the cohort. This diversity, combined with our highly regarded international student program, gives the school a global perspective.

The entire five year program of learning is designed to deliver graduating students an outcome of high academic achievement, entrance into TAFE or other learning opportunities, an apprenticeship or traineeship or entry to the workforce.

Many students by-pass their local high school to attend Merrimac State High School. We are the school of choice for students and parents who are looking for an education that combines learning, care and social development as a total package. Total student enrolments for this school:

Total student enrolments for this school:

Total Enrolment	Girls	Boys	Enrolment Continuity (Feb 2010 – Nov 2010)
1292	613	679	83%

Characteristics of the student body:

Class sizes – Proportion of school classes achieving class size targets in 2010

Phase	Average Class Size	Percentage of classes in the school			
		On or under target	Under Target	On Target	Over Target
Prep – Year 3					
Year 4 – Year 10	23	91%	78%	13%	9%
Year 11 – Year 12	18	94%	89%	5%	6%
All Classes	21	92%	83%	9%	8%

School Disciplinary Absences

Disciplinary Absences	Count of Incidents
Short Suspensions - 1 to 5 days	185
Long Suspensions - 6 to 20 days	11
Exclusions	4
Cancellations of Enrolment	11

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

Merrimac values our quality learning environment which inspires and motivates individuals to perform to their full potential.

Middle School

The Year 8 curriculum is designed around engaging students within 8 Key Learning Areas (KLAs). These KLAs are English, Mathematics, Science, Study of Society and Environment, The Arts, Technology, Languages and Health and Physical Education. Within each KLA, student learning is designed, delivered, assessed and reported against Essential Learnings to be completed by the end of Year 9. The Year 9 curriculum design flows seamlessly from Year 8, continuing to address the Essential Learnings through 8 Key Learning Areas. Within Year 9, students begin to influence their own learning through limited selection of courses within some of the KLAs.

Senior School

Year 10 is the first year of senior schooling. Whilst providing greater choice for each student, Year 10 subject offerings are designed to prepare student for Year 11 and 12. In Year 10 students study subjects for one full year.

Distinctive curriculum offerings occur in:

The Arts	Graphics
Dance	Engineering Technology
Dance Excellence	Technology Studies – Design for Living
Drama	Industrial Skills – Metal Trades
Music	Industrial Skills – Doorways to Construction (2yr course)
Visual Art	Industrial Technology
Photo and Digital Imaging	Languages Other Than English
Business Education	Chinese
Professional Business Studies	Japanese
Open 4 Business	Mathematics
Business Information Technology	Mathematics A
English	Mathematics B
English Extension – Literature	Prevocational Mathematics
English Communication	Science
Information Communication	Chemistry Major
Get into IT	Physics Major
Health and Physical Education	Multi-strand Science
Physical Education	Biological Science Major
Recreation	History
Home Economics	Economics
Home Economics – Fashion Studies	Geography
Home Economics – Hospitality Practices	Study of Society and Environment

Year 11 and 12

In Year 11 and 12 students study 6 subjects over two years. Students are able to choose these subjects based on their specific pathway to employment, Vocational Education and Training and tertiary study beyond Year 12. Subjects in Year 11 and 12 are delivered aligned with pathway options for students. *Authority subjects* are designed for those students intending to engage in tertiary study beyond Year 12. *Authority registered* subjects are designed toward nationally

Our school at a glance

recognised Vocational Education and Training qualifications toward gaining apprenticeships, traineeships and cadetships, as well as full time employment.

Authority	Authority Registered and Vocational Certificates
Accounting	Certificate I & II in Business
Ancient History	Creative Arts – Visual Arts Studies
Biological Science	Certificate III in Children Services
Business Communication and Technologies	English Communication
Chemistry	Fashion Studies
Chinese	Certificate II in Hospitality Operations
Dance	Industrial Skills – Cert. I in General Construction
Drama	Industrial Skills (Metal) Certificate I in Engineering
Visual Arts	Certificate III in Media
Economics	Certificate II in Information Technology
English	Film and Television
English Extension - Literature	Marine and Aquatic Practices
English for ESL Learners	Certificate I in Retail
Geography	Prevocational Mathematics
Graphics	Recreation Studies
Information Processing and Technology	Certificate II in Tourism
Japanese	Certificate I in Work Education
Legal Studies	Certificate I in Work Readiness
Marine Studies	
Mathematics A	
Mathematics B	
Mathematics C	
Modern History	
Multistrand Science	
Music	
Music Extension (Performance)	
Physical Education	
Physics	
Technology Studies	
Philosophy and Reason	

Extra curricula activities

Duke of Edinburgh Award
 School Musical
 Instrumental Music

Our school at a glance

Science and Engineering Challenge

Chess Competition

Year level Learning Camps

Snow Trip

Film and Television Course

Debating

How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

Merrimac has an extensive computer network with 578 computers available for staff and students. The school is continually working to bridge the gap of digital learning at home and at school. Most subject areas now publish their learning materials, revision exercises and all assessment tasks on the department's "Learning Place". This enables students to have a uniform digital learning environment. The school also makes extensive use of our website to publish learning materials.

We also use web based curriculum tools such as Mathletics, Clickview, Turn It In and Adobe Suite.

The school has 100% wireless coverage, data projectors in every classroom space and colour printing available to students. All students have their own email and network accounts.

In 2010, we increased the number of laptop computers in the school. Through the Commonwealth Government Digital Education Revolution we rolled out 300 laptop computers to the Year 9 students. This has provided increased access to learning resources for these students.

We are now planning the final roll out of laptop computers to give all students in Years 9 – 12 access to a laptop.

Social climate

The school has an extensive network of support staff who cater for the diverse needs of students. Our support staff comprises a Guidance Officer, School Nurse, Industry Liaison Officer, School Chaplain, Youth Support Co-ordinator, Youth Pathways Officer and Indigenous Liaison Officer.

The school has invested heavily in prevention and intervention in regard to bullying. The school has worked closely with its Peer Mentors in supporting the Year 8 transition to high school.

The school has also worked on training staff to implement the "Putting Youth in the Picture" program for our Year 11 and 12 students.

We are proud of our Special Education Program that supports 57 students to work in mainstream classrooms and grows and develops the individual talents of every child.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Performance measure	Result 2010
Percentage of parents/caregivers satisfied that their child is getting a good education at school	68%
Percentage of students satisfied that they are getting a good education at school	45%
Percentage of parents/caregivers satisfied with their child's school	82%
Percentage of school workforce satisfied with access to professional development opportunities that relate to school and systemic initiatives	68%
Percentage of staff members satisfied with morale in the school	69%

Our school at a glance

Involving parents in their child's education.

The staff at Merrimac State High School understand the important part parents play in supporting the education of their children. The school encourages and welcomes parent involvement at the school through activities such as:

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Induction programs for Year 8 Students/Parents

Focus Group Meetings

School musical and other performances

Subject Selection Evenings

Sports Awards Evening

Presentation Night

Parents and Citizens Association

The school canteen.

Reducing the school's environmental footprint

The school is ever aware of our environmental footprint. The school has invested in solar power, rainwater tanks to supply the pool, energy efficient lighting and recycled printing supplies. The variation in the electrical usage is explained through a change of electrical meter.

Year	Total	Electricity	Sewerage	Waste	Water	Gas	Other	Electricity KwH	WaterKL	GasMJ
2010	\$211,730	\$150,682	\$0	\$5,863	\$46,809	\$0	\$8,376	801,741	10,387	0
2009	\$217,660	\$134,816	\$0	\$0	\$61,871	\$0	\$20,973	10,087	16,847	0
% change 2009 - 2010	-3%	12%	N/A	N/A	-24%	N/A	-60%	7848%	-38%	N/A

Our staff profile

Staff composition, including Indigenous Staff			
Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	101	47	<5
Full-time equivalents	95	33	<5

Qualifications of all teachers.

Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2010 was \$47257.68.

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

- Feedback for Learning
- Reciprocal Teaching
- Explicit Teaching

Our staff profile

- ICT Integration
- Intellectual Rigour

The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2010 was 100%.

Average staff attendance

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders, the staff attendance rate was 96% in 2010.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

From the end of the previous school year, 98% of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2010 school year.

Performance of our students

Student attendance - 2010

The average attendance rate for the whole school as a percentage in 2010 was 91%.

Student attendance for each year level

Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12
92%	91%	89%	90%	92%

Description of how non-attendance is managed by the school

Non-attendance is managed in state schools in line with the DET policies, SMS-PR-029: Managing Student Absences and SMS-PR-036: Roll Marking in State Schools, which outline processes for managing and recording student attendance and absenteeism.

Merrimac SHS strongly supports the government's policy "Every Day Counts". As such we have put in place extra effort to promote students being at school every day. The school takes class rolls every lesson every day. We text message parents by 9.30am each day if their son/daughter has missed the first roll mark. Additionally, we have a well documented process where teachers check if a student misses a lesson. If a student has truanted a lesson during the day, parents are informed by letter and the student is expected to undertake an after school detention. Parents are also sent fortnightly letters if their teenager has unexplained absences.

Performance of our students

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results – our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9

Our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are available via the MySchool website at <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>

To access our NAPLAN results, click on the MySchool link above. You will then be taken to the *My School* website with the following 'Find a school' text box.

Find a school

Search by school name

Search by suburb, town or postcode

Sector Government
 Non-government

Where it says '**Search by school name**', type in the name of the school whose NAPLAN results you wish to view, and select <GO>.

Read and follow the instructions on the next screen; you will be asked to accept the **Terms of Use** and Privacy Policy before being able to access NAPLAN data.

If you are unable to access the internet, please contact the school for a paper copy of our school's NAPLAN results.

Performance of our students

The school has implemented the following strategies:

- Math tutorial from Griffith University – embedded in timetable for Year 8 – 12
- Indigenous support officer to mentor those male students at risk of disengaging through truancy
- Homework Centre attendance – supported by Indigenous teacher aide
- Liaison with Gold Coast Titans Football Club re: traineeship opportunities for senior students
- Supporting 3 senior students completing Certificate III Indigenous Health with tutorials during lunch and on Mondays

The following sections refer only to schools with Senior Secondary students. Please delete if not applicable.

Apparent retention rates Year 10 to Year 12.

Year 12 student enrolment as a percentage of the Year 10 student cohort.	80%
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Outcomes for our Year 12 cohort of 2010

Number of students receiving a Senior Statement.	198
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA).	0
Number of students receiving an Overall Position (OP).	85
Number of students who are completing/continuing a School-based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SAT).	30
Number of students awarded one or more Vocational Educational Training (VET) qualifications.	169
Number of students awarded an Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) Certificate II or above.	95
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) at the end of Year 12.	145
Number of students awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBD).	0
Percentage of OP/ IBD eligible students with OP 1-15 or an IBD.	65%
Percentage of Year 12 students who are completing or completed a SAT or were awarded one or more of the following: QCE, IBD, VET qualification.	96%
Percentage of Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) applicants receiving an offer.	87%

Overall Position Bands (OP)

Number of students in each Band for OP 1 to 25.				
OP 1-5	OP 6-10	OP 11-15	OP 16-20	OP 21-25
8	22	25	24	6

Vocational Educational Training qualification (VET)

Performance of our students

Number of students awarded certificates under the Australian Qualification Framework (AQF).		
Certificate I	Certificate II	Certificate III or above
158	86	23

Post-school destination information

At the time of publishing this School Annual Report, the results of the 2010 Year 12 post-school destinations survey, *Next Step – Student Destination Report* for the school were not available. Information about these post-school destinations of our students will be incorporated into this Report in September.