

Merrimac State High School (2147)

Queensland State School Reporting

2012 School Annual Report



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Principal's foreword

Introduction

It is with pride that I present the Merrimac State High School Annual Report for 2012.

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

I would like to specifically highlight that:

- 100% of parents report their child feels safe at school
- 85% of parents believe Merrimac SHS is a good school

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 2013.

Chris Tobin
Principal

School progress towards its goals in 2012

The school set specific improvement targets for 2012 school year. The first target was to have 95% of students achieving an above C for the subject level of achievement. The school attained 86.6% for students with above C for achievement and while this result did not reach our goal, it did show consistent improvement from our 2011 achievement. We have always understood the 95% achievement benchmark was ambitious and would take some years to achieve.

The school has continued to monitor classroom behaviour and has defined processes to ensure teachers can devote the maximum amount of time to teaching.

Future outlook

Merrimac SHS has developed a strategic plan which 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 2013 our four main goals are:

- To increase to 95% the A, B & C results across all subjects.
- To have 100% completion of VET Certificates.
- School's Naplan mean will be greater than the National mean in all measures.

School Profile

Coeducational or single sex: Coeducational

Year levels offered in 2012: Year 8 - Year 12

Total student enrolments for this school:

	Total	Girls	Boys	Enrolment Continuity (Feb – Nov)
2010	1292	613	679	89%
2011	1230	590	640	88%
2012	1308	618	690	88%

Student counts are based on the Census (August) enrolment collection.

Characteristics of the student body:

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 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:

Average Class sizes

Phase	Average Class Size		
	2010	2011	2012
Year 4 – Year 10	23	24	24
Year 11 – Year 12	18	18	19

School Disciplinary Absences

Disciplinary Absences	Count of Incidents
Short Suspensions - 1 to 5 days	311
Long Suspensions - 6 to 20 days	9
Exclusions	23
Cancellations of Enrolment	26

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offering

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

Junior School

The Year 8 curriculum is designed around engaging students within 8 Key Learning Areas (KLAs). These KLAs are English, Mathematics, Science, Social Sciences, The Arts, Technology, Languages and Health and Physical Education. The curriculum offerings in English, Maths, Science and History are all designed, delivered and assessed under the Australian Curriculum. All other curriculum learnings align to the Queensland Essential Learnings. 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:

Drama	Graphics
Dance	Engineering – Cert 1
Music	Doorways to Construction (2yr course)
Visual Art	Industrial Technology and Design
Get into IT	Chinese
Professional Business Studies	Japanese
Open 4 Business	Mathematics
Business Information Technology	Mathematics Foundation
English	Mathematics Extension
English Extension – Literature	Science
English Communication	History
Fashion Studies	Geography
Early Childhood Studies	Health and Physical Education
Hospitality Practices	Physical Education Excellence

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

Authority

Accounting
Biological Science
Business Communication and Technologies
Chemistry
Chinese
Drama
Visual Arts

Authority Registered on Vocational Certificates

Certificate I & II in Business
Creative Arts – Visual Arts Studies
Certificate III in Children's Services
English Communication
Fashion Studies
Certificate II in Hospitality Operations
Certificate I in General Construction

Our school at a glance

Economics	Certificate I in Engineering (Metal)
English	Marine and Aquatic Practices
English Extension – Literature	Certificate I in Retail
English for ESL Learners	Prevocational Mathematics
Geography	Recreation Studies
Graphics	Certificate II in Tourism
Information Processing and Technology	Certificate I in Work Education
Japanese	Certificate I in Work Readiness
Legal Studies	Science in Practice
Marine Studies	Industrial Technology and Design
Mathematics A	
Mathematics B	
Mathematics C	
Modern History	
Multistrand Science	
Music	
Music Extension (Performance)	
Physical Education	
Physics	
Philosophy and Reason	

Extra curricula activities

Duke of Edinburgh Award	Debating
School Musical	Putting Youth in the Picture
Instrumental Music	Kokoda Challenge
Interschool Sport	High Resolves
Year Level Learning Camps	Peer Mentor Training
Snow Trip	

How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

All students from Years 9 – 12 have been allocated a laptop to support their learning. 90% of these students have opted to enter into the Take Home Program that gives students 24/7 access to the laptop computer.

Teachers are changing the way they teach to take advantage of the technology and what it has to offer.

The students are now provided with a large proportion of their work in a “OneNote” format that allows them to have instant access to learning materials while providing a tool to record their own work and understanding.

Staff have undertaken the ‘Symphony’ training and are using their new skills to improve their teaching practices.

Our school at a glance

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, and 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 supporting 70 students to work in mainstream classrooms and to grow and develop the individual talents of every child.

Parent, student and staff satisfaction with the school

Performance measure (Nationally agreed items shown*)

Percentage of parents/caregivers who agree that:	2012 [#]
their child is getting a good education at school	95.0%
this is a good school	85.0%
their child likes being at this school*	95.0%
their child feels safe at this school*	100.0%
their child's learning needs are being met at this school*	95.0%
their child is making good progress at this school*	95.0%
teachers at this school expect their child to do his or her best*	95.0%
teachers at this school provide their child with useful feedback about his or her school work*	95.0%
teachers at this school motivate their child to learn*	95.0%
teachers at this school treat students fairly*	100.0%
they can talk to their child's teachers about their concerns*	100.0%
this school works with them to support their child's learning*	94.7%
this school takes parents' opinions seriously*	94.4%
student behaviour is well managed at this school*	89.5%
this school looks for ways to improve*	94.7%
this school is well maintained*	100.0%

Our school at a glance

Performance measure (Nationally agreed items shown*)

Percentage of students who agree that:	2012 [#]
they are getting a good education at school	87.9%
they like being at their school*	77.8%
they feel safe at their school*	86.2%
their teachers motivate them to learn*	76.7%
their teachers expect them to do their best*	95.7%
their teachers provide them with useful feedback about their school work*	76.5%
teachers treat students fairly at their school*	62.4%
they can talk to their teachers about their concerns*	65.8%
their school takes students' opinions seriously*	61.5%
student behaviour is well managed at their school*	60.7%
their school looks for ways to improve*	77.6%
their school is well maintained*	81.9%
their school gives them opportunities to do interesting things*	76.7%

Performance measure (Nationally agreed items shown*)

Percentage of school staff who agree:	2012 [#]
that they have good access to quality professional development	74.8%
with the individual staff morale items	82.3%

* Nationally agreed student and parent/caregiver items were incorporated in the School Opinion Survey in 2012.

[#] Percentage of respondents who Somewhat Agree, Agree or Strongly Agree with the statement. Due to changes to the School Opinion Surveys in 2012, comparisons with results for previous years are not recommended.

DW = Data withheld to ensure confidentiality.

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

Academic List Luncheons

School Facebook Page

Multicultural Evening

School Musical

Reducing the school's environmental footprint

Data is sourced from school's annual utilities return and is reliant on the accuracy of these returns.

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

	Environmental footprint indicators	
	Electricity kWh	Water kL
2009-2010	801,741	10,387
2010-2011	430,448	3,519
2011-2012	299,552	10,335

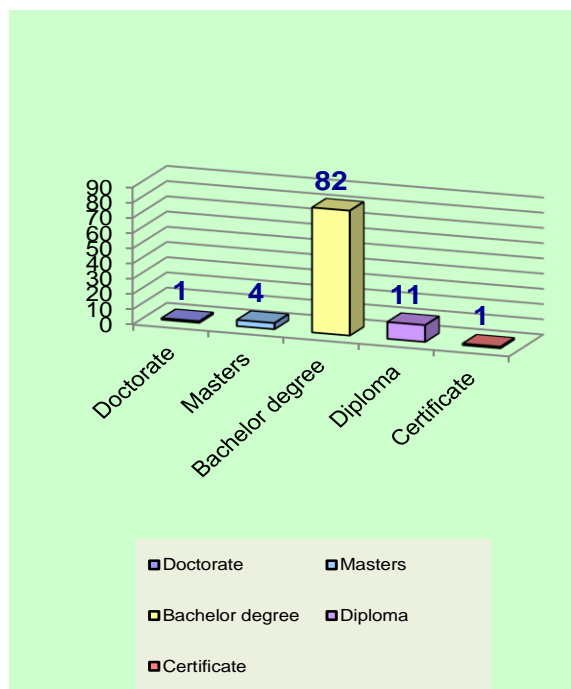
Our staff profile

Staff composition, including Indigenous staff

2012 Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	99	48	5
Full-time equivalents	93.6	34.8	4.7

Qualifications of all teachers

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	1
Masters	4
Bachelor degree	82
Diploma	11
Certificate	1



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2012 were \$26,965.

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

- Senior secondary program writing and moderation with the Queensland Studies Authority.
- Implementation of the Australian Curriculum and the further development of the curriculum to the classroom resources.
- ICT Pedagogy – Symphony of Teaching & Learning
- Student welfare and wellbeing

Our staff profile

Average staff attendance	2010	2011	2012
Staff attendance for permanent and temporary staff and school leaders.	95.6%	95.2%	95.3%

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the previous school year, 98.5% of staff was retained by the school for the entire 2012 school year.

School income broken down by funding source

School income broken down by funding source is available via the My School website at <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.

To access our income details, click on the *My School* 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 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 given access to the school's My School entry web page.

School financial information is available by selecting 'School finances' in the menu box in the top left corner of the school's entry web page. If you are unable to access the internet, please contact the school for a paper copy of income by funding source.

Key student outcomes

Student attendance	2010	2011	2012
The overall attendance rate for the students at this school (shown as a percentage).	91%	91%	92%
The overall attendance rate in 2012 for all Queensland state Secondary schools was 88%.			

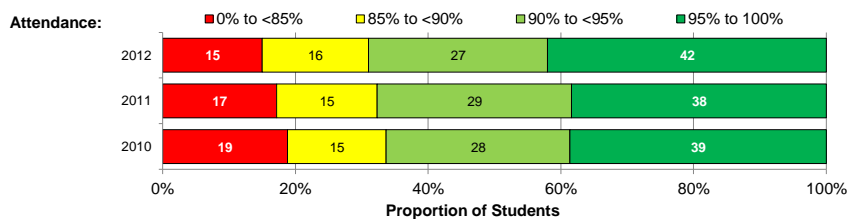
Student attendance rate for each year level (shown as a percentage)

	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12
2010	92%	91%	89%	90%	92%
2011	92%	91%	88%	90%	92%
2012	93%	90%	90%	93%	91%

DW = Data withheld to ensure confidentiality.

Student Attendance Distribution

The proportions of students by attendance range.



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.

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 My School website at <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.

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

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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

Achievement – Closing the Gap

Apparent retention rates Year 10 to Year 12	2010	2011	2012
Year 12 student enrolment as a percentage of the Year 10 student cohort.	75%	64%	74%

Outcomes for our Year 12 cohorts	2010	2011	2012
Number of students receiving a Senior Statement.	198	183	190
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate Individual Achievement.	0	0	0
Number of students receiving an Overall Position (OP).	85	53	71
Number of students who are completing/continuing a School-based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SAT).	30	32	42
Number of students awarded one or more Vocational Educational Training (VET) qualifications (incl. SAT).	169	152	146
Number of students awarded an Australian Qualification Framework Certificate II or above.	92	102	106
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) at the end of Year 12.	145	137	154
Number of students awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBD).	0	0	0
Percentage of OP/IBD eligible students with OP 1-15 or an IBD.	65%	75%	79%
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%	98%	97%
Percentage of Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) applicants receiving an offer.	87%	100%	98%

As at 2 May 2013. The above values exclude VISA students.

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
2010	8	22	25	24	6
2011	8	16	16	9	4
2012	13	22	21	13	2

As at 2 May 2013. The above values exclude VISA students.

Performance of our students

Vocational Educational Training qualification (VET)

Number of students awarded certificates under the Australian Qualification Framework (AQF).

	Certificate I	Certificate II	Certificate III or above
2010	158	80	30
2011	136	87	36
2012	113	98	21

As at 2 May 2013. The above values exclude VISA students.

Our school offers an extensive range of Certificate courses for our students. Outlined below is the range of Certificate I programs on offer and the number of students undertaking the study.

Certificate I Retail – 8

Certificate I Work Readiness – 7

Certificate I Construction - 19

Certificate I Business - 29

Certificate I Information Technology – 88

Certificate I Engineering – 6

Certificate I Work Education - 6

Post-school destination information

At the time of publishing this School Annual Report, the results of the 2012 Year 12 cohort's 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.

Early leavers information

The destinations of young people who left the school in Years 10, 11 and prior to completing Year 12.

NEXT STEP 2013 YEAR 12 DESTINATIONS Merrimac State High School



Introduction

This report documents a summary of results of the annual *Next Step* survey for Merrimac State High School. The *Next Step* survey, undertaken by the Queensland Government, targets all students who completed Year 12 and gained a Senior Statement in 2012, whether they attended a government, Catholic or independent school, or a TAFE secondary college. The Government Statistician conducted the survey between March and June 2013, approximately six months after the young people left school. Responses were collected via computer-assisted telephone interviewing and an online survey.

Statewide and regional reports from the *Next Step* survey will be available on the *Next Step* website in September 2013 at www.education.qld.gov.au/nextstep.

Response rate for Merrimac State High School

Table 1 below reports the response rate for Merrimac State High School. It expresses the number of respondents from this school, as a percentage of all Year 12 completers who attended Merrimac State High School in 2012.

It has not been possible to ascertain how representative these responses are of all Year 12 completers from this school.

Table 1: Survey response rate

Number of respondents	Number of students who completed Year 12	Response rate (%)
146	200	73.0

Definitions of main destinations

The pathways of Year 12 completers were categorised into ten main destinations. Year 12 completers who were both studying and working were reported as studying for their main destination. A table defining these categories can be found in the statewide report at www.education.qld.gov.au/nextstep.

Summary of findings

In 2013, 52.7 per cent of young people who completed Year 12 at Merrimac State High School in 2012 continued in some recognised form of education and training in the year after they left school.

The most common study destination was Bachelor Degree (31.5 per cent). The combined VET study destinations accounted for 21.2 per cent of respondents, including 15.1 per cent in campus-based VET programs, with 10.3 per cent of Year 12 completers entering programs at Certificate IV level or higher.

6.2 per cent commenced employment-based training, either as an apprentice (3.4 per cent) or trainee (2.7 per cent).

In addition to the above study destinations, a further 4.1 per cent of respondents from this school deferred a tertiary offer in 2013 (deferrers are shown in Figure 1 in their current destination).

47.3 per cent did not enter post-school education or training, and were either employed (31.5 per cent), seeking work (11.6 per cent) or not in the labour force, education or training (4.1 per cent).

Figure 1: Main destination of Year 12 completers

