

2022 Annual Report to the School Community

School Name: Warrandyte High School (8437)



- All teachers at the school meet the registration requirements of the Victorian Institute of Teaching (www.vit.vic.edu.au).
- The school meets prescribed minimum standards for registration as regulated by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) in accordance with the Education and Training Reform (ETR) Act 2006. This includes schools granted an exemption by the VRQA until 31 December of the previous calendar year from the minimum standards for student enrolment numbers and/or curriculum framework for school language program.
- The school is compliant with the Child Safe Standards prescribed in Ministerial Order No. 870 – Child Safe Standards, Managing Risk of Child Abuse in School.

- This 2022 Annual Report to the School Community has been tabled and endorsed at a meeting of the school council and will be publicly shared with the school community

About Our School

School context

Warrandyte High School is located in the beautiful and natural setting amongst the 'green wedge' in the Inner East suburb of Warrandyte, 20 kilometers from the heart of Melbourne. The School buildings and grounds create a calming, safe and supportive atmosphere where all students thrive. With total enrolments of 343 students in 2022, the school consists of three sub-schools: Year 7/8 (Junior School), Year 9/10 (Middle School) and Year 11/12 (Senior School) with a Year Level Coordinator overseeing each of these sub school. With an SFOE of Low-Medium, we are seeing an increase in the numbers of enrolments from the wider local community in areas including Research, Eltham and Kangaroo Ground, though enrolment numbers do continue to be a challenge we are working at improving. The school continues to be mainly mono-cultural, though we are seeing increased enrolments from overseas and other cultures. The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted our International Program which continues to remain a challenge, and we are looking forward to being able to travel overseas 2023 to build this program again. In 2022 Warrandyte High School had 29.9 FTE Teaching staff, 2 Principal class and 14.5 FTE Education Support staff.

Our school vision is to: 'Challenge every learner in a safe and supportive environment' which we achieve through our beliefs that:

- As teachers, we need to meet the individual learning needs of all students
- We are all learners in our community: students, staff and parents
- People learn best when they feel safe –emotionally and physically
- Basic abilities, such as intelligence and talent, can be developed through dedication and hard work
- As a school community we expect the highest standards in terms of everything that each community member does.

Underpinning the behaviour of students, staff and parents are three important values: Excellence, Integrity and Respect. Through these values we continually focus on high expectations of all members of our community, authentic relationship through our triangulated partnership with teachers, students and parents, are inclusive of all students by giving them a voice and ensuring all staff uphold consistent teaching and learning protocols. The school commits to the active sharing of its vision and goals to ensure school community engagement in the School's Strategic Plan.

Warrandyte High School is building a strong reputation for teaching and learning excellence in academic and creative achievement. Through a holistic approach where every student is valued and supported to achieve their personal best, the school encourages students to grow as individuals and participants in the wider community. Our teachers work in Professional Learning Communities to develop, implement and continually improve, relevant, innovative programs which facilitate the best possible outcomes for our students. Our breadth of academic and extra-curricular programs ensures we can meet the highly specialised learning needs of our students. Inside the classroom, we are committed to the implementation of our Instructional Model which is aligned with FISO 2.0 and the High Impact Teaching Strategies. (HITS). The school guarantees all students access to a broad, balanced and flexible curriculum including skills for learning and life. The school provides a safe and stimulating learning environment to ensure all students can achieve their full potential. The Taking the Challenge program in Year 9 extends the broad range of core and elective subjects offered. Year 7-10 students have the opportunity to participate in an intensive Basketball and Football Program. Year 10 students have access to VCE/VET subjects providing opportunities for breadth, extension and acceleration.

Progress towards strategic goals, student outcomes and student engagement

Learning

Our learning focus in early 2022 was initially to ensure our students were feeling safe and comfortable returning to onsite learning. Once we had established that our students were again comfortable with the return to school, we embarked upon several significant improvement areas. A core focus for staff was the development of Professional Learning Communities to ensure staff were working on strategies to improve the outcomes of their students. Some staff participated in facilitator training, and we commenced our first full PLC cycle. This enabled teachers to come together in their 'communities' with a shared focus on improving one aspect of their teaching. We also focused on building teachers' capacity in the area of literacy and numeracy and by the end of 2022 we had developed both a three-year Literacy Action Plan and a three-year Numeracy Action Plan ready for implementation in 2023. Early indicators, including our teacher judgement data, suggest that we are well on track to see improved student outcomes in this area. In English, we have 88% of our students who are at (or above) the expected standard for their year level, and in Maths we have 69%

of students who are at (or above) the expected standard for their year level. This is a good reflection of the work our English and Maths teachers are putting into the curriculum, and we look forward to seeing these results improve over the coming years with the implementation of a whole-school focus on literacy and a concentrated focus on Numeracy in Mathematics. Our NAPLAN results remained steady as a direct result of remote learning and we look forward to seeing improved results for students in the Top 3 Bands over the next few years with a concentrated focus on literacy and numeracy and a full year back to onsite learning.

Our MYLNS and TLI programs continued to support students who had not reached expected growth benchmarks due to the impact of Covid-19 and remote learning, and we extended this program by offering our junior school students Maths tutoring provided by some of our Year 12 students. Our VCE Study Score Mean continues to prove an area for improvement, and our staff worked hard at looking at ways we can build the capacity of staff in 2023 including the introduction of a mentoring partnership with a staff member from another school. This year really was about laying the framework and foundations in teaching and learning excellence for the years ahead and we expect to see positive shifts in our data over the coming years.

Significant planning occurred throughout 2022 to ensure Warrandyte High School attained accreditation to run the VCE - Vocational Major pathway from 2023. As the school had not previously run a VCAL program before, a team of staff were required to design and develop Curriculum & Assessment schedules, with assistance from the VCAA, to gain this accreditation. This will compliment the range of pathways currently available to students including our extensive VCE program, and VET offerings.

Wellbeing

Supporting improvements in wellbeing proved challenging during the first half of 2022 with several staff changes in the wellbeing area during Semester 1 and uncertainty for staff about who would be leading the school that year with the Principal on leave for Term 1, which then extended into Term 2. By mid-Term 3 however, we had overcome the staffing challenges and found ourselves in a position where we had secured a Wellbeing Coordinator to complement the work of our Mental Health Practitioner and Adolescent Health Nurse and a new Principal. Our Wellbeing Team, which consists of our Wellbeing Leader, Mental Health Practitioner, Adolescent Health Nurse, Student Services Leader and Assistant Principal began to meet fortnightly to respond to a variety of school needs and strategically plan programs and activities. This included the continuation of weekly 'Wellbeing Wednesdays' and 'Mindfulness Mondays' news feed posts on our Compass portal which included advice and links to articles and wellbeing resources. Student wellbeing continued to be at the forefront of our planning, with the return to onsite schooling – and though this proved challenging for some students, we were able to support them well through one-on-one counselling sessions. It didn't take long before most of our students had returned to school and embraced being back onsite with their peer groups and teachers. Our Attitudes to School survey indicated that our student absence data was below that of the state, indicating that our students were happy to be coming to school. However, the average number of absent days is still a concern and we will be looking at further ways to address this in 2023. Similarly, this survey indicated that bullying remains a concern for the students at our school and we addressed this through several programs and guest speakers including 'The Man Cave' at Year 8 and 'The Pat Cronin Foundation' at Year 9 and VCE. The school also investigated a partnership with 'Real Schools' to begin work on improving school culture, behaviour and wellbeing of students. This partnership will commence from the start of 2023 and will see significant shifts in the way we look at restoratively repairing harm when a bullying incident does occur.

Engagement

Student engagement was a core priority for 2022 after two years of remote learning and there were several highlights in this area aligned to our AIP. In particular, the development of and full functionality of our Student Voice Council saw students at Warrandyte High School engaged in the school in ways they had never been in the past. Putting students and their voice at the front of all that we do, students were presented with our Attitudes to School Data and became agents of their own engagement. Student focus groups unpacked the data to provide a snapshot of a range of views related to finding out the reasons for particular data results. Specifically, students looked at data related to school connectedness and discussed the reasons for the results achieved. This will continue into 2023, with the plan to then develop strategies to improve this data. The Student Voice Council also brought student engagement to life through involvement in planning activities for our vertical homegroup structure, as well as extra-curricular activities for all students. This included several 'free dress days' for all students, and the introduction of our first ever 'Footy + Day' which was a whole school event tailored around providing a range of engaging activities for students to participate in.

We continued to run our vertical home group program, though the success of this program was varied and we have since removed this from our planning for 2023. In its place, we spent time throughout 2022 developing our W.E.L.L Program (Wellbeing, Engagement, Leadership and Learning Program) for all students in year 7 and 8 which will commence in 2023. Pleasingly, our parents reported a 74.6% satisfaction rate with the school, which is higher than the state average.

Other highlights from the school year

Throughout 2022, there were several significant highlights for members of the Warrandyte High School community, which enabled us to renew and refresh after several difficult years of remote learning. The reintroduction of our school camps – Year 7 to Roses Gap and Year 11 to Kakadu – provided students with great extra-curricular opportunities. With the commencement of our new Principal in Semester 2, a rejuvenated energy and approach to the school was evident and this certainly was a highlight for the remainder of the year. Some of the most outstanding highlights for our students in Semester 2 included the return of our famous school productions, with the performance of ‘The Show Must Go On’ and our Instrumental Music Concert. Both of these events saw the community returning to the school to see these shows come to life. Having secured \$3.4 million in the 2021-2022 State Budget was a wonderful achievement for the school and toward the end of the year the Capital Works project commenced which will see the redevelopment and modernisation of our Art & Technology precinct. This work is set to be completed mid-2023 and will provide state-of-the-art facilities for our school community to work in. The project also includes extensive landscaping across the school which will see beautiful courtyards, flora and artwork as key features.

Financial performance

2022 saw a change in leadership mid-year, with the appointment of a new Principal and Acting Business Manager. As a result, there was a tightening of expenses and a reduced expenditure of approximately \$407,000. The school year finished with an expected operating deficit of \$201,544, due to a reduction in SRP funded students and a significant decrease in International Student enrolments as a continuation of the impact of COVID-19. The small cohort of International Students we did have continued to generate local funding, contributing to support overall programs across the school. Our SRP expenditure reflects the value placed in supporting the employment of high-quality staff, which is reflective of an increase of approximately \$40,000. Expenditure of Professional Learning doubled in 2022 to continue to support staff with their professional development. Miscellaneous expenses including bank charges, administration charges (including the Compass Portal) and insurance and taxation charges were reduced by \$225,000. School Council continued to endorse our annual arrangements with our canteen provider (Morgan Catering), our gym (Warrandyte Basketball Association), our school oval (Warrandyte Football and Cricket Associations) and our Theatre (Diamond Valley Singers). Equity funding received continued to support Literacy, Numeracy and Wellbeing programs throughout the year.

For more detailed information regarding our school please visit our website at
<https://www.warrandytehigh.vic.edu.au/>