



Annual Report 2006

School Profile

Southport State High is a co-educational school with a little under 900 students in year 8 to 12. The school stands in spacious grounds with a hilltop location. Our facilities are outstanding and include a Farm, Marine Centre, 25 meter Swimming Pool, Sports Centre and Gym. We have a large Drama Hall and practice rooms, a newly refurbished Media Centre, 6 Computer laboratories, an exceptionally resourced Library, an innovative Industrial Arts Centre and a specialised Dance Studio. A new Enterprise centre for Hospitality and Business will be constructed early in 2008.



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Distinctive Curriculum

The school has a wide range of curriculum options, with students encouraged to explore options in the middle school (year 8 and 9) before choosing flexible pathways that will see them leave the school with real career or further study options.

Among the distinctive curriculum features of our school are:

- Wide ranging opportunities in Science Education that include Agriculture (we have a school farm) and Marine Science (from our Marine Centre with direct access to water). The traditional sciences are strong in the school and include a physics program which offers credit at 1st year university level, high level opportunities in Chemistry and Physics and developing possibilities for those interested in engineering.
- A varied and celebrated Arts program that includes our renowned Dance program, an outstanding Film and new Media school, our award winning Drama section and first-rate programs in Visual Arts and Music.
- An innovative Health and PE program that produces very high level results in the senior school, and includes sports specialisation options in the middle school. Opportunities to participate in the “Trix Circus School” are quite unique to Southport High, and we are also the home of an “Acceleration Australia” fitness centre.
- The opportunity to specialise in either Tertiary Focussed programs or Vocational studies in the upper school, with a full range of Mathematics, Business and Technology options in the academic pathway, balanced by an ever increasing range of Certificate courses in Technology, Industrial Arts, Hospitality and Science.
- At least 6 levels of academic challenge offered in the middle years. These include special education and supported learning classes for those who need special help, a gateway program for students who will benefit from a modified mainstream program, mainstream classes, PACE classes (Pathways to Acceleration, Challenge and Enrichment) and an individual acceleration program which enables gifted students to accelerate through the year levels or into University courses.
- Students studying first year University subjects while in year 12. In 2006, 18 students participated in the G.U.E.S.T program with Griffith University and gained early entry to full time study after passing their courses.

Extra Curricular Activities include:

- A full range of weekly sports programs.
- Our High performance Sports program for elite athletes in individual sports. Byron Davis' Silver medal in the World track cycling championships was a highlight for this group.
- The Trix Circus School which is acquiring a huge reputation for excellence.
- 4 Musical ensembles who play in eisteddfod's, concerts and perform at school events.
- Participation in events such as the Rotary Model United nations Forum. Kristen von Salden represented the District at the National event and was declared an equal winner.
- Drama groups preparing for the Gold Coast Drama Festival
- The growing Chess Club.
- Our Annual School Musical
- Farm activities including the small animal nursery and competition in rural shows. A 2006 highlight for this group was a swag of 1st, 2nd and 3rd places at the Toowoomba Farmfest.
- Our Annual Ski trip.
- A biennial overseas study tour (it will be Vietnam in 2007)
- Arts exhibitions, Film Awards, Dance Showcase.



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How Computers are used for learning

In this school, computer technology is used to assist learning in many ways:

- Through access to our 6 specialised computer learning laboratories.
- Through access to small computer 'pods' | other learning areas.
- Through the use of graphics calculators in Mathematics and Science.
- Through innovative research options promoted through our Library.
- Through the use of computer aided design in the Industrial Arts area.
- Through the use of innovative technology in the film and media area.
- Through encouragement for our students to explore the uses of technology- driven media to publish their own work.
- Through the use of E-mail and web-based connections for learning circles, teacher – student contact and the i-Track mentor program.



School Climate and Support Programs

Our school places a huge emphasis on programs to support each child, and we have great structures and processes in place to contribute to their welfare.

- Every student is supported by a Head of Year who will usually enrol them on entry, support them through their 5 years of secondary education and be the proud surrogate parent who laughs and cries with them on their graduation. These Heads of Year work closely with each student's Pastoral care teacher, who meets with them every day.
- Our Heads of year are backed by the Heads of Middle and Upper School. The Head of Middle School is responsible for transition from primary school and years 8 and 9, the Head of the Senior School supports students in years 10, 11 and 12.
- Our Guidance Officer leads a welfare and intervention team that includes:
 - A Youth Support Coordinator
 - Two Youth Pathways Officers
 - A School Nurse
 - An indigenous support worker
 - Our Chaplain
 - The Director of the Responsible Thinking Centre
 - Liaison with the Smith Family "Education for Life" personnel based at our school.

With other school staff, and a number of outside agencies, the support and welfare team deliver a wide range of programs that include:

- Individual and group counselling
- Case management of students encountering difficulty.
- Peer and Adult mentor programs
- Program Achieve for all year 8 and 9 students.
- The i-Track program (on-line mentoring)
- Leadership opportunities in every year level.
- Group intervention programs such as WAY and PLAN for at-risk students.
- Luchtime activities run by a local youth group.
- A breakfast program.
- Processes to intervene when there is bullying.

How can parents be involved in the school?

We try hard to maintain the connection between school and our parents because we know that great communication between the school and parents is so important to both student success and happiness.

Parent can be very involved in our school and in the education of their son or daughter by:

- Accepting our invitations to visit the school, both formal and informal.
- Coming to scheduled parent teacher conferences (twice each year) or asking for your own conferences with teachers whenever you need to.
- Sharing E-mail addresses with your child's teachers to encourage easy communication.
- Talking with your child's teachers, by phone or E-mail, when there is something that you would like to ask or discuss.
- Reading our on-line newsletter, published every fortnight.
- Attending awards, performances and leadership ceremonies.
- Coming to meetings of the Parents and Citizen's Association on the first Wednesday of every month (these are short, informal, not focussed on fund raising and you don't have to have a job!)
- Contacting the Principal with questions or comments through his contact E-mail on our web site.
- Volunteering to work in the Canteen, the Library or assist with Reading Programs.