



ROWVILLE
INSTITUTE
OF ARTS

APPLICATION PACK



From The Principal

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to RIA- Rowville Institute of the Arts. We hope that this marks the beginning of a productive partnership between your family and ours. Research tells us that student learning, achievement and wellbeing are brought together when school communities fully support and engage their members.

At Rowville Secondary College we strive to make success the norm. We work towards ensuring that every aspect of the teaching and learning program is designed around students' needs. Indeed the very reason for the existence of Rowville Institute of the Arts is to provide growth opportunities for students with artistic talents and passions.

We value and respect each student for the talents and skills they have. Each student admitted into the Institute is provided with an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) to ensure a balance between academic and artistic growth and development. Our student support and guidance program is key to ensuring that students make choices that are well considered and in their long-term interests.

The success of our students and rapid development of our facilities proves RIA be a College of achievement; one where goals are set, achieved and surpassed.

Some of our recent successes include:

- **Tim Mason** – Special guest principal performer at Vic State Schools Spectacular 2017 & 2018, went on to study Musical Theatre at NIDA in Sydney
- **Skye Ladell** - Principal Dancer Vic Schools Spectacular 2016 & 2017, went on to study at Brent Street Academy in Sydney
- **Bonnie Ramsay** – went on to study Dance at Patrick Studios
- **Meg Dunn** – Invited to perform at VCAA Top Acts (Drama) 2017, went on to study at the Victorian College of the Arts
- **Brooke Macrae** - Invited to perform at VCAA Top Acts (Dance) 2018, Principal Dancer Vic Schools Spectacular 2016 & 2017, went on to study at Patrick Studios Australia
- **Molly Forster-Little** – went on to study Music at the Victorian College of the Arts (Jazz)

Each year RIA has a high representation at the Victorian Schools Spectacular, with our students consistently being cast in such roles as Principal Dancers, Vocalists and Musicians, as well as working behind the scenes in Stage Management and Audio Visual. Many of our past students are now working artists in their fields.

RIA is an arts program of excellence and we seek to be recognised by the broad range of arts organisations as the best school based arts program for talented and aspiring performing and visual art students throughout the southern and eastern regions of Melbourne. To achieve this, RIA is distinguished by its genuine commitment to:

- Creativity
- Individual Pathways and individual learning programs
- Curriculum balance and integration
- 21st Century Learning

These words are the basis of our promise to you as parents and to your children as our students. They form the basis of our program delivery and support our School Council's desire to develop arts, sports and learning precincts at our Eastern Campus as hubs within the Rowville-Lysterfield community.

The Rowville Institute of the Arts is the place where we "Offer Unique Opportunities in the Arts". We look forward to a long and successful partnership with you.

Julie Kennedy
Principal

RIA Background Information

Established in 2008, the Rowville Institute of the Arts (RIA) is a full-time academic and Arts program that caters for talented aspiring artists.

This unique program increases student engagement and improves student outcomes.

The curriculum is grounded in world's best practice and caters for 5 specialist arts practices - dance, drama, media, music and visual arts.

As well as engaging in a broad Arts program, RIA students also study a range of core subjects that include Mathematics, English, Science, Humanities and Italian.

RIA is distinguished by its use of Individual Pathways, Individual Learning Programs, 21st Century Learning and the creation and maintenance of individual digital portfolio.

Students' Arts experiences are enriched in a variety of ways including Artists in Residence, workshops led by industry professionals, excursions and incursions.

This focus ensures that every student in RIA has a rich, varied and meaningful experience that excites and motivates them to explore and extend their creative passions and talents. The school continues to build a culture of student performance and exhibition within the school, local and wider communities.

The Institute is based at the College's Eastern Campus situated in the south-east of Melbourne.

Facilities include a media studio, studio arts rooms, music practice suites, a black box drama studio and the College's 500 seat Performing Arts Centre which also houses our professional dance studios.



Many of our students take part in the Victorian State Schools Spectacular
(photo courtesy of VSSS)

Our Mission and Vision

RIA Mission

RIA is an Arts program of excellence and we seek to be recognised by the broad range of arts organisations as the best school based arts program for talented and aspiring performing and visual art students throughout the southern and eastern regions of Melbourne.

RIA Vision

RIA aims to:

- Nourish imagination and creativity in its students.
- Increase student achievement in both specialism subjects and targeted subjects across the broader curriculum.
- Increase student motivation to learn.
- Support and develop the skills of teachers to work collaboratively and creatively.
- Encourage links between different learning areas.
- Explore the efficacy of the visual and performing arts as a delivery mechanism across the curriculum.
- Provide Individual Pathways and Individual Learning.
- Programs Support 21st Century Learning through the utilisation of technology and flexible learning spaces.
- Promote peer mentoring.
- Improve the ethos of the school.



RIA Values

RIA Students

- Work to improve their skills and understanding of identified subject areas.
- Display a greater engagement and motivation to learn.
- Develop higher order thinking skills such as analysis, synthesis, evaluation and critical judgment.
- Show flexibility in their thinking and an appreciation for diversity.
- Are self-directed, independent learners.
- Display increased interest in school through improved school attendance.

RIA Teachers

- Are committed to the mission, values and teaching philosophy of RIA.
- Have an understanding of the arts and creative processes and an ability to weave the creative process through the curriculum.
- Have a proven ability to build strategies that engage students.
- Have high expectations of students and provide an environment in which students excel.
- Are knowledgeable about best practice in teaching and learning.
- Are emotionally intelligent and forge positive relationships with students.
- Work collaboratively with students and staff and have good interpersonal skills.
- Embed reflective practices in their teaching.
- Make use of national and local Arts resources.
- Embrace challenge, innovation and change.



Performing Arts

The Performing Arts component of the program includes learning about the practical, theoretical and contextual aspects of Drama, Dance and Music.

Drama

The Drama specialism at RIA takes a holistic approach to education that intentionally links artistic and individual growth. Students build artistic skills while participating directly in a process of decision making and risk taking that helps them meet critical adolescent developmental needs.

The immersion program exposes students to a broad range of theatrical experiences, conventions and performance styles. Students explore theatre across time and culture and develop skills in characterisation, improvisation, expression, performance, interpretation of texts and script writing.

Music

RIA Music specialism develops expressive skills and the ability to convey feelings and thoughts artistically. An active contribution in curricular and extra-curricular ensembles, bands and choir, promotes passion, creativity, self-discipline and confidence. Students participate in rigorous aural and theory classes using Kodály methodology as well as individual and small group lessons on their principal instrument. 21st century technology provides an exciting, stimulating environment where students engage in composing, performing, transcribing and arranging music.

Music specialism students are required to be an active and prominent part of the Music Department at Rowville Secondary College. To ensure they are developing their skills and working towards set goals on their instrument, it is compulsory for them to receive:

- Tuition/lessons on their specified instrument – As this is an additional lesson with a specialised teacher, it will happen at an extra cost on top of their RIA fees. Information and fees can be found at: <https://www.rowvillesc.vic.edu.au/opportunities-for-all/instrumental-music/>
- Ensemble Participation: Students will be required to participate in the relevant ensemble for their instrument and attend before school rehearsals on the relevant day from 7:45am or at lunchtime. This may happen at the Eastern or Western campus and information regarding days and times are outlined to students and parents at the start of each year.

Dance

Dance is a communicative, expressive and dynamic art form. Dance specialism students are exposed to meaningful and sustainable learning experiences that challenge the mind and body and develop sensory awareness, kinaesthetic empathy and transcultural appreciation. Students use and explore dance styles, dance elements and practices designed to develop technical skills, theoretical knowledge and an understanding of dance in context. This includes choreography of their own dance sequences, rehearsal and performance of a variety of dance styles, evaluation of their own work and the work of others, research and building a vocabulary of dance terminology.



Visual Arts

The Visual Arts component of the program includes learning about the practical, theoretical and contextual aspects through Visual Arts and Media Studies.

Visual Arts

The Visual Arts specialism provides the opportunity for students to explore a variety of materials and art forms, the principles of design and the significance of art styles and artists over time. We encourage a spirit of experimentation and risk-taking that promotes creativity, innovation and independence. Students express ideas, feelings and beliefs and challenge definitions of art. They reflect upon their own artworks and those of others, discussing, analysing, interpreting and evaluating visual art from past and present contexts.

Media Studies

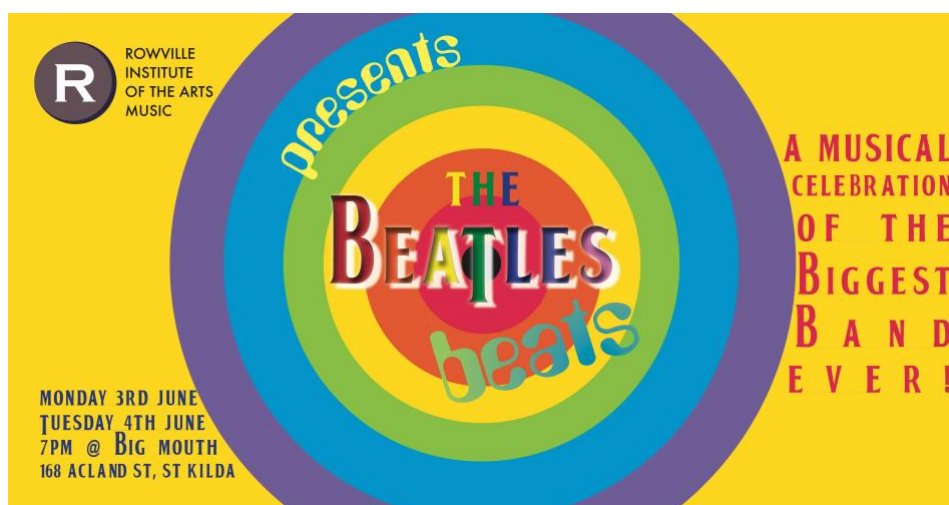
RIA Media specialism enables students to develop critical and creative abilities and mastery of media tools. The students develop audio-visual literacy through the exploration of radio production, mastery of Photoshop, the display of images, digital and analogue photography, animation and video production. Students are encouraged to follow their passions and to explore new technologies.

Extensive training, state of the art equipment, unique experiences and workshops with media experts enables RIA students to critically analyse expressive media and communication technologies but also to use them as a means of expression and artistic creation.

Broad Arts

In addition to their core curriculum and specialism studies, all students from Years 7-10 undertake general studies in Dance, Drama, Media, Music and Visual Arts as part of the Broad Arts component of the RIA program.

From Year 9, students are able to take part in a varied offering of electives in the arts.



Fee Structure

RIA is an elite program for students with special artistic ability. Our teachers are all selected because they excel in their fields. Annual fees for 2021 are:

YEAR 7-9	
DANCE*	\$1,650
BYOD*	\$80
First Aid**	\$60
Grounds***	\$30
Library***	\$25
Building***	\$100
Total Dance Levy	\$1,945
DRAMA*	\$1,500
BYOD*	\$80
First Aid**	\$60
Grounds***	\$30
Library***	\$25
Building***	\$100
Total Drama Levy	\$1,795
MEDIA*	\$1,500
BYOD*	\$80
First Aid**	\$60
Grounds***	\$30
Library***	\$25
Building***	\$100
Total Media Levy	\$1,795
MUSIC*	\$1,500
BYOD*	\$80
First Aid**	\$60
Grounds***	\$30
Library***	\$25
Building***	\$100
Total Music Levy	\$1,795
VISUAL ARTS*	\$1,500
BYOD*	\$80
First Aid**	\$60
Grounds***	\$30
Library***	\$25
Building***	\$100
Total Visual Arts Levy	\$1,795

YEAR 10-11	
DANCE*	\$1,775
BYOD*	\$80
First Aid**	\$60
Grounds***	\$30
Library***	\$25
Building***	\$100
Total Dance Levy	\$2,070
DRAMA*	\$1,425
BYOD*	\$80
First Aid**	\$60
Grounds***	\$30
Library***	\$25
Building***	\$100
Total Drama Levy	\$1,720
MEDIA*	\$1,425
BYOD*	\$80
First Aid**	\$60
Grounds***	\$30
Library***	\$25
Building***	\$100
Total Media Levy	\$1,720
MUSIC*	\$1,700
BYOD*	\$80
First Aid**	\$60
Grounds***	\$30
Library***	\$25
Building***	\$100
Total Music Levy	\$1,995
VISUAL ARTS*	\$1,425
BYOD*	\$80
First Aid**	\$60
Grounds***	\$30
Library***	\$25
Building***	\$100
Total Visual Arts Levy	\$1,720

YEAR 12	
DANCE*	\$1,650
BYOD*	\$80
First Aid**	\$60
Grounds***	\$30
Library***	\$25
Building***	\$100
Total Dance Levy	\$1,945
DRAMA*	\$1,425
BYOD*	\$80
First Aid**	\$60
Grounds***	\$30
Library***	\$25
Building***	\$100
Total Drama Levy	\$1,720
MEDIA*	\$1,425
BYOD*	\$80
First Aid**	\$60
Grounds***	\$30
Library***	\$25
Building***	\$100
Total Media Levy	\$1,720
MUSIC*	\$1,575
BYOD*	\$80
First Aid**	\$60
Grounds***	\$30
Library***	\$25
Building***	\$100
Total Music Levy	\$1,870
VISUAL ARTS*	\$1,425
BYOD*	\$80
First Aid**	\$60
Grounds***	\$30
Library***	\$25
Building***	\$100
Total Visual Arts Levy	\$1,720

Total fees listed above are inclusive of all essential*, optional** and voluntary charges*** but exclusive of instrumental music lessons.

*Essential Student Learning Items are those items, activities or services that are essential to support student learning of the standard curriculum.

**Optional items are those that are provided in addition to the 'standard curriculum program', and which are offered to all students in each program. These optional education items are to be provided on a user-pays basis and if parents/guardians choose to access them for their child they will be required to pay for them.

***Parents are invited to make a Voluntary Financial Contribution to the school for a general or specific purpose, e.g. school grounds projects, library fund or for new equipment. The Building and Library contributions are tax deductible.

The above fees are based on the 2020 fee structure and although we do not anticipate any significant fee increases, the above fees are subject to school council approval.

All activities undertaken as part of the students' specialism subject are covered under the RIA fees. Students enjoy many and varied activities. Here is just a selection of some of the activities the students have taken part in recently:

- Dance:
 - Specialist dance workshops with industry professionals both on and off campus
 - Australian Ballet performances
 - Various dance company performances
- Drama:
 - Professional theatre productions incl. *Come From Away*, *Harry Potter & the Cursed Child*, and Melbourne Theatre Company
 - Specialist drama workshops with industry professionals/theatre companies such as Bell Shakespeare and Zeal Theatre Australia
- Media
 - Various exhibitions including NGV, Melbourne Museum
 - Film location scouting and filming
 - PAX gaming exhibition
- Music
 - Various theatre productions including *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *School of Rock* and Opera Australia
 - Busking in various public locations
 - Melbourne Symphony Orchestra concerts
- Visual Arts
 - Various exhibitions including NGV, and the Archibald Prize
 - Workshops with professional artists both on and off campus
 - Visits to working galleries

What our students do in class

RIA Students

- Draw inspiration from a broad range of sources, including artworks from different cultures, styles and historical contexts.
- Are provided with opportunities to reflect on and communicate abstract ideas from various experiences.
- Learn to transfer skills, knowledge and understanding from the classroom into the workplace and the broader community.
- Regularly use self and peer evaluations allowing them to review and amend their work.
- Explore and develop knowledge of local and global values and cultures.
- Work in diverse teams within and beyond the school.
- Complete challenging tasks that allow them to create, justify and reflect on their learning.
- Are guided and supported to become independent.

Acceleration

“... there is a problem with the education of gifted children. These children have special needs in the education system; for many their needs are not being met; and many suffer underachievement, boredom, frustration and psychological stress as a result”

(Senate References Committee, 2001, p.xiii)

RIA prides itself on an ability to cater for individual student needs. In the case of gifted and talented students, acceleration may be appropriate. Students who accelerate are encouraged to do a three year VCE that offers opportunities for greater breadth and depth and more flexibility in their final year of VCE.

Parents wishing to explore the suitability of acceleration for their child are invited to make an appointment with the RIA Director to discuss this option.

Learning Mentor Groups

Each child is placed in one of four houses (Aston, Mabo, Stynes or Walton), and also in a Learning Mentor group. They will remain with this group and learning mentor for the duration of their time at RSC.

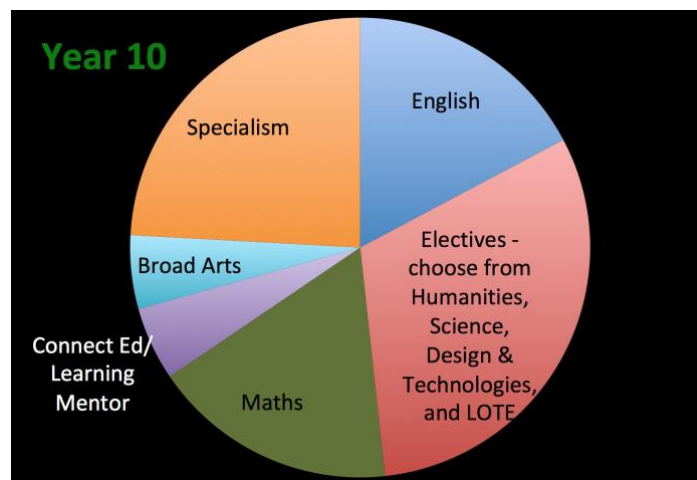
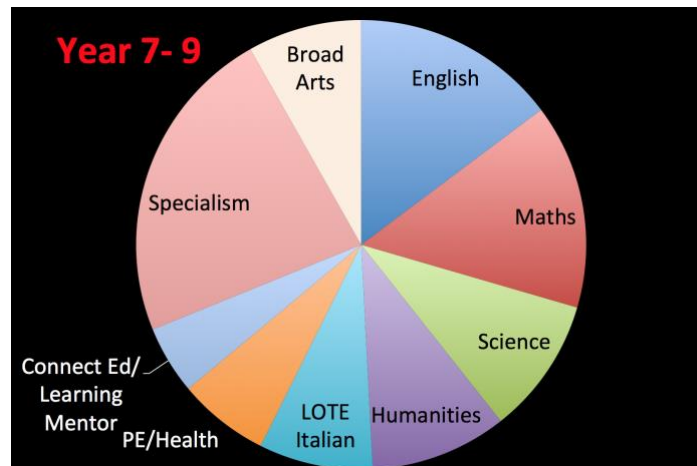
These groups are designed to support the development of a positive school culture in which every child can thrive, consisting of themed days, which support the development of the whole child and allow opportunities for each student to be known as an individual and a learner.

Students are encouraged to participate in and lead these activities to support a philosophy of high expectations.

Activities are designed to build student confidence and encourage them to take risks, shaping their identity as curious and powerful learners in a range of contexts.

All activities are designed to support the social, emotional and cognitive growth of students.

Student Timetables



- Year 11 & 12**
VCE
- Students choose 5 subjects each year – one of which must be an English subject. Students can do more than one arts subject (VCE only)
 - Extension: 4 periods more in a cycle to work on their VCE specialist subject
 - Specialism: 6 periods a cycle to prepare for performance or exhibition, including visiting teachers, excursions & incursions
 - Connect Ed & Learning Mentor Groups

Rowville Secondary College runs on a 10-day timetable.

This is a sample only of a Year 7 RIA schedule with Music as the specialism.

The subject in red represents the main specialism, and the yellow represent the broad arts subjects - which are a combination of the remaining 4 specialisms - 2 of which are done each semester.

SEMESTER ONE					
WEEK 1	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
P1	MATHS	DANCE & DRAMA	ENGLISH	DANCE & DRAMA	ENGLISH
P2					
P3	MUSIC	ENGLISH	HEALTH/PE	HUMANITIES	MUSIC
P4		MUSIC	MEDIA	HEALTH/PE	
P5	SCIENCE	HUMANITIES	SCIENCE	MATHS	ITALIAN
P6	HEALTH/PE		MEDIA		
WEEK 2	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
P1	MATHS	DANCE & DRAMA	ENGLISH	SCIENCE	ENGLISH
P2				HUMANITIES	
P3	SCIENCE	MUSIC	MATHS	ITALIAN	MUSIC
P4	HEALTH/PE		MEDIA		
P5	CONNECT ED	HUMANITIES	SCIENCE	MATHS	MEDIA
P6					

SEMESTER TWO					
WEEK 1	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
P1	HUMANITIES	ENGLISH	MATHS	VISUAL ART	MATHS
P2	MUSIC				
P3	HUMANITIES	MUSIC	VISUAL ART	ITALIAN	MUSIC
P4			ENGLISH	HUMANITIES	
P5	SCIENCE	HEALTH/PE	ITALIAN	MUSIC	ENGLISH
P6					
WEEK 2	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
P1	SCIENCE	ENGLISH	MATHS	HUMANITIES	MATHS
P2					
P3	MUSIC	MATHS	SCIENCE	MUSIC	MUSIC
P4		MUSIC			
P5	CONNECT ED	HEALTH/PE	ITALIAN	VISUAL ART	ENGLISH
P6					

Selection Criteria

The RIA program accommodates entry from all year levels, with selection based on folios, interviews, essays and auditions.

Admittance to Rowville Institute of the Arts is by audition and application. Interviews may be requested.

We encourage everyone who feels they can fulfil the selection criteria to apply. Please note that not all applicants will be accepted.

All candidates, regardless of specialism, are assessed against the following criteria –

RIA students demonstrate:

- A highly developed artistic ability in at least one field, either Performing or Visual Arts.
- A positive attitude and commitment to academic study.
- A positive attitude and commitment to the development of skills in their chosen artistic field.
- A strong desire to pursue their passion for the arts.
- A high level of commitment and motivation in pursuit of personal success.

What our students say about RIA

“RIA is like a family to me and has allowed me to feel comfortable and more of myself every day of the week. I feel that RIA has given me many qualities that are essential in life such as really helping me build confidence and learning to work independently as well as in a team. These contribute to helping in personal life as well. RIA is such an accepting and non-judgmental program filled with genuine and encouraging people, which helps build the foundations for self-belief and to be who you want to become.”

Brooke B, Dance Specialism

“I didn’t start off in RIA, I was originally in General Excellence. It just wasn’t for me and I was looking for more of a creative challenge... Once I changed over to RIA, I immediately felt like I belonged. I felt comfortable with likeminded people, as a result I started to feel happier. My grades also improved. This was because I enjoyed the subjects and focusing in class was easier.”

Dillon G, Media Specialism

“I feel that dance specialism has taught me to work my hardest, and in my future studies to persevere and try my hardest at all times, and that working hard pays off and helps your dreams come true.”

Jess D, Dance Specialism

“During the first week of school, I found it pretty challenging to find my way around. But my friend and I overcame that pretty quickly because we’d spend each lunchtime exploring the school, so it became more familiar to us... The other challenging part of starting RIA was going from being the biggest kids at primary school to feeling like I was surrounded by giants. But I’m looking forward to getting to know some of the giants in the upcoming school musical...I really like that I get to do the normal subjects that you would expect at school but then I get to do a whole lot of what I am passionate about. It makes school more interesting and we are lucky to have really talented teachers to help us.”

Liesl P, Music Specialism



Student Application Form 2020

Tape student's photo here

Student's first name:

Student's surname:

Gender:

Year level in 2020:

Year to enrol:

Year level to enrol:

Current school:

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Primary contact:

Relationship to child:

Phone:

Email:

Secondary contact:

Relationship to child:

Phone:

Email:

Student's primary home address:

Street number & street:

Suburb:

Postcode:

ARTS PREFERENCE

Please indicate which art form you are interested in auditioning for.

If you would like to audition for 2 specialisms, please indicate only 2 by numbering them 1 and 2 in order of preference.

Dance

Drama

Media

Music

Visual Art

Please indicate instrument/s:

There is a \$15 Audition Fee. Please pay at: <https://www.trybooking.com/BIEZH>

Applying to RIA

Applications are made in writing to:

Jenn Walter
RIA Administrator
Rowville Secondary College
Eastern Campus
PO Box 2123
Rowville 3178

Or hand delivered to the Eastern campus administration office on Humphreys Way.

Checklist

All applications should be mailed or delivered in an envelope (no folders, binders or display books please) and should contain the following:

	The completed Student Application Form (included in this Application Pack)
	Passport-sized photo (this should be taped to the application form)
	A copy of the student's most recent school report
	A 150-word report handwritten by the student detailing why they would like to be accepted into the program
	Copy of Birth Certificate
	Audition Fee of \$15 – please include your audition “ticket” . Payment can be made by going to https://www.trybooking.com/BIEZH