

Ka Lau

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LCPCS Scheduled for Accreditation Renewal this Year

During the 2016/2017 school year, LCPCS will be renewing its accreditation with WASC, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The first step in this procedure is the completion of a "Self Study" to assist a visiting team of educational professionals in providing feedback both to the school and to WASC.

By: Kaulana Smith, Accreditation Coordinator

Mahalo to all who have participated in the self-study phase of LCPCS' process for renewal of WASC Accreditation.

The self-study process began at the start of this school year. Statewide test scores and other recommendations since the 3-year term revisit in 2014 had re-prioritized programs and operations at LCPCS. This year's school's leadership team, consisting of the Interim School Director, the Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment (DCIA), the Finance and Office Managers, along with the chair of LCPCS' Governing Board, committed to do their best as the Self Study steering committee in renewing the school's WASC Accreditation.

A steering committee structure was based on the six sections in which the standards have been organized in the self-study instrument: institutional core values, purpose, and aspirations; teaching

and learning; financial stability; operations; institutional stewardship and leadership; and institutional improvement and sustainability. Operationally, the steering committee is responsible for overseeing the work in each section of the self study.

The steering committee, working with the accreditation coordinator and Self Study advisor, is making every effort to engage representation from all stakeholders. An invitation via school announcements and meetings was extended to the entire LCPCS community for their participation in the self-study process.

At this point, the steering committee chairs are currently drafting each section for its first review, with feedback and redraft for reporting by the first weeks of November. Our timeline includes scheduled faculty meetings, governing board meetings, follow-up surveys, and school community meetings in order to have a final draft and school-wide action plan for approval by the governing board in January 2017.



LCPCS faculty and staff collaborating on the Self-Study Report in August

Once the self study is approved, published, and sent to the visiting committee, preparation for the committee visit begins. Help will be needed for coordination of travel, lodging, and meals for the three to four-day visit. Meetings will be scheduled for committee members and school stakeholders to attend throughout the school day, with the visiting team reporting their findings and recommendations to the entire school community.

The process continues as the school is given the opportunity to realign the Self Study in generating a forward-thinking document on the school's strategic priorities based on the visiting committee's recommendations, and the mission of LCPCS, between July and December 2017.

A Message from the Director



Hulali Carreiro, 5th grade, converses with the school piglets.

The 2016-17 school year began with a new oli (chant) and a new theme, Mā-lama Palikū, reminding everyone about the importance of taking care of our earth, our island home, our school, and one another. As part of Hilo Palikū, we stand proud like the straight cliffs of our moku (district). With our first quarter complete, we can see that our 'ohana, in many different ways, is taking this theme to heart.

Our students are thriving with kumu who see the value of building positive relationships and who create opportunities for them to learn in a variety of ways. Preschool and elementary students are learning and "doing" African dance, art, garden, and PE. Classes are reconfiguring their learning environments, pursuing passion projects, and going on excursions to experience new and exciting adventures.

Secondary students are growing and harvesting hydroponic produce to share with their families and the cafeteria, technology students are creating their own websites, and we have a dedicated group of students attending auto and wood shops every Monday afternoon.

Enrichment classes continue to be offered after school, Mr. Aaron continues to run our Mahope program everyday after school for middle schoolers, and students get to participate in yoga and Hip Hope with our very own teachers. We offered tutoring for a select group of elementary students and will be expanding that program, and we now offer tutoring after school on Tuesdays through Thursdays for all secondary students.

We also have four piglets being cared for by our students, kalo being tended to by our agriculture classes, and beans being harvested by our elementary students.

We continue to learn, to grow, to alu like (work together) to fulfill our school mission to emphasize hands-on learning and academic success where every student is known, valued and loved, using community partners and resources while instilling traditional cultural values.

We encounter challenges and we use them to as opportunities to grow and strengthen as an `ohana working together, taking care of one another.

Liana Honda, Interim Director