

Ka Lau

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LCPCS Enrollment Continues its Steady Increase

Enrollment at LCPCS continues to grow. As of August 16, 2017, the total enrollment was 316 students, and according to Student Records Coordinator Paula Dickey, “we will be surpassing that for sure (in the next few weeks).” Fifty-seven of those students are enrolled in LCPCS via the Kaupē‘a Virtual Learning Program, which is also growing fast.

Each year, administrators at the school set a target for enrollment, and base the annual budget on those targets. This year the target was for 310 students, so the school has exceeded its target by six and counting. On-campus capacity is around 350 students.



All the LCPCS students ‘oli and listen to announcements at a recent Piko (a Monday morning assembly).

Ms. Dickey says that there are a number of different counts over the course of a year. The one the State uses to calculate per-pupil funding is in October. Ms. Dickey also keeps an informal count of students enrolled at the end of each year, finding it valuable to keep track of the number who have settled in and finished out the year. According to Ms. Dickey’s count, in the last year that the school was under Hawai‘i Department of Education control, 2011/2012, the enrollment was 215. The year of the conversion, 2012/2013, enrollment dipped to a low of 190. Every year since then has seen an increase.

Three factors seem to be influencing the rise in enrollment. First, several families who pulled their students out of the school at the time of conversion have now brought them back. Second, several families who formerly home-schooled heard positive things from their children’s friends, and decided to give LCPCS a try. Third, there seem to be a lot of families moving into the area and hearing good things about the school. Some of these families have even applied for a geographic exception in order to enroll their kids. In addition to its own geographic attendance area, LCPCS is now pulling students from Pa‘auilo, Kalaniana‘ole and Honoka‘a.

“People just feel there’s a change, and they’re encouraged by that,” says LCPCS Director Romeo Garcia. One example is Ta’sa and Manuel McDonald, who have two children. Having tried Montessori, Waldorf and homeschooling, they have now placed their kids at LCPCS. Both children have flourished, according to Ms. McDonald. “It’s all because of the great teachers there,” she said recently. “Our kids both fell in love with it. I feel like we’ve found our niche.”

Calendar

- Tuesday, August 29, 5:30 pm — SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE, LCPCS cafeteria
- Monday, September 4 — NO SCHOOL: Labor Day
- Tuesday, September 5 — 9th grade to Koholālele (Pa‘auilo)

Open House: Sign-in at 5:30. Dinner (roast pork and gravy with rice) at 6:30. Agenda: Director meet and greet; parent concerns; community police officer update; Hui Makua updates; what’s happening at LCPCS; and, of course, classroom tour.



A Message from the Director — Time to Dream

This past week, Kumu Aaron presented a lesson to the middle school students about time. He shared that in comparison to how long the universe has existed, our time on earth as human beings is minuscule, and if we want to make a positive, memorable, impact on the world in the relatively short time that we have to live, we need to live each day as if it were our last.

LCPCS is at a place in time where our dreams for this school can be manifested. But have we taken the time to share our dreams with others? Have we committed to the work it takes to make dreams come true? Have we taken the time to prioritize the right things that will lead us to actualizing our dreams for a life that is pono? My Filipina mother dreamed of a time when her youngest son would live a healthy life, free of worry and filled with love. It’s taken a lot of hard work, resilience and big dreaming to be where I am today. I thank my mother for committing to and living out her dream for us.

This past Friday, I told our middle and high school students, in an impromptu assembly that I called to address inappropriate behaviors, that my being at LCPCS is personal. This is more than a "job," and I will do whatever it takes to help students realize and act on their greatness. I will not allow others to obstruct their path to greatness. I will be at my best as the school's leader, and lead with integrity, openness, consistency and aloha.

Our time is now to make LCPCS what we want it to be — GREAT for all children. We must all act today to help our keiki make possible their dreams. I look forward to seeing you tomorrow night at Open House, where I will share my dreams for our school.

Seasider Spotlight



Māhealani Yamashita

LCPCS welcomes Dr. P. Māhealani Yamashita as the new K-12 Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. She’ll be going by Kauka, which means doctor in Hawaiian, and the honorific title is well deserved. She holds a BA in Secondary Education, Language Arts; a MEd in Education Counseling; and a EdD in Education Leadership, K-12. Kauka’s experience in education spans over twenty years in public, private, and charter schools, and includes integrating project-based learning and Hawaiian culture into experiential, ‘āina-based education. A Native Hawaiian, born and raised on Hawai‘i Island, she is also proud to have served her country and is a military veteran.

Kauka says she loves the spirit she’s finding at LCPCS. “I feel like we’re in this time capsule of the old spirit of aloha,” she said recently. “We have something really special here.” Kauka presently resides in Waimea with her wife, Michelle, and their boys, four-and-a-half year old Mauna Kea, and one-year-old Mako. In her free time she loves to go to the beach with her family, and play Hawaiian music.