

MID--CYCLE VISIT

VISITING COMMITTEE REPORT

**ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR SCHOOLS
WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES
FOR**

OSAKA YMCA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

7--34 Nakatsu, 6--chome, Kita--ku, Osaka, Japan

Self--Study Visit: April 21~25, 2013

Mid--Cycle Visit: April. 10~13, 2016

Visiting Committee Members

Mr. Barry Ratzliff

Head of School, Hokkaido International School

Ms. Tracey Reed

ES Instructional Technology Coach, The American School

Commendations:

- 1) There is a high level of devotion from the staff to ensuring the current and ongoing success of the school, and an enviable commitment from staff to the school community.
- 2) The parent community speaks highly of teacher abilities and teacher communication.
- 3) The YMCA is to be commended for extending valued freedom to the professional staff in determining the curricular direction of the school.

- 4) There is a high level of student empowerment for taking on leadership roles within the school, and the student council is active in advancing student issues and interests.
- 5) The VC values the prominent display of student work and their input in various displays of student learning throughout the school building.
- 6) The school's instructional staff is to be commended for the extensive time commitment given to advancing the school's strategic plan, instruction initiatives and co-curricular program.
- 7) The VC commends the ample evidence of the supportive and collaborative mindsets and practices of the teaching staff.
- 8) OYIS is to be commended for creating a dynamic school climate that parents and students are eager to be a part of.
- 9) The OYIS leadership team is to be commended for their clear plans to increase collaboration time for teachers in the 2016 ~ 17 school year.

Recommendations:

- 1) The VC recommends the school, in conjunction with the instructional staff, investigate structures for curricular development that invites greater collaboration from the primary curricular stakeholders.
- 2) The VC recommends the school increase teacher involvement in the admission process prior to student enrollment to produce more informative perceptual data on incoming students.

- 3) The VC encourages the school and PTA to clarify the role and practices of the PTA to ensure productive collaboration for all stakeholders.
- 4) The school's stated intention to adopt a Danielson model of professional evaluation needs to be followed up with the development or adoption of professional standards. Further work is needed to define the process by which evaluation is conducted. Additionally, the professional evaluation model needs to be accompanied by a clear set of procedures that becomes an embedded practice within the school.
- 5) The VC recommends that the school consolidate and prioritize initiatives within the strategic plan at a pace and depth that allows for each initiative to be understood, implemented and sustained.
- 6) School leadership needs to provide the junior high school program with direction, clarity and credibility along with resource commitments to better ensure the future of the program.
- 7) The VC believes the Governing Board would benefit from annual board training to ensure that board members are made fully aware of their role within the school as it pertains to the expectations of the WASC protocol and the school community. The Board would further benefit from communicating this understanding to the school community on an annual basis.
- 8) The VC members recommend the administration of OYIS and YMCA explore the means of better supporting, nurturing and motivating the professional staff of the expanding Japanese language program so they may in turn better meet the needs of student learning.