

Internal Monitoring Report

November 14, 2013

By Craig Heimbichner, Superintendent/Chief Executive Officer

Progress Toward End Number 1.2

As a result of our efforts, students will pursue their own special interests and talents while challenging and improving their abilities in the following areas:

- a. Effective use of technology
- b. Problem solving and critical thinking strategies
- c. Visual and performing arts

Reasonable Interpretation and Justification

Horizon Charter School and Partnerships for Student Centered Learning (PaSCL) provide multiple avenues for students to pursue their own special interests and talents, through a wide variety of course offerings and support from approved vendors. Technology has been effectively integrated through multiple programs, use of laptops computers, and online instruction. Problem solving and critical thinking are fostered through one-on-one instruction and small classroom discussions, rigorous coursework based on State Standards, and project-based learning. Visual and performing arts offerings are varied and rich, including multiple electives through our programs and support from approved vendors. In summation, students are uniquely and richly supported in all of the above areas.

Data Directly Addressing the Interpretation

While schools and districts across our six-county area continue to eliminate Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) classes and programs, Horizon Charter Schools continue to integrate VAPA into a rigorous core academic curriculum, and also to offer several electives, leading to greater student learning and expression.

At our Learning Centers, Montessori, and also through our vendor support for our home/independent study students, many opportunities exist for students to explore visual and performing arts and other special interest subjects. Classes are offered to all students beginning in Kindergarten; some examples include the following:

- Theater
- Dance
- Music
- Media Production
- Professional Acting classes (vendored classes)
- Computer Animation
- Guitar/Rock Band
- Poetry
- Aloha Dancers (vendored classes)

- Sacramento Ballet (vendored classes)
- Upstage Productions (vendored classes)
- Art: Acrylic Painting, Colored Pencil Painting, Pen and Ink Painting, and Watercolor Painting

The programs have infused VAPA activities through the curriculum. For example, the Lincoln Montessori Community Co-op includes art approximately every three weeks; classes perform plays; students take field trips to theater performances grades 3-8. Online learning includes many offerings, with the recent addition of real-time support through Virtual Learning Instructors.

It is evident that Horizon places a high value on offering to all of our students opportunities to experience and learn about the visual and performing arts, pursue special interests and talents, and engage in technology-supported online learning, all while developing critical thinking skills.