

## **Internal Monitoring Report**

June 12, 2014

By Craig Heimlichner, Superintendent and 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 integrate VAPA into a rigorous core academic curriculum, and also to offer several electives, leading to greater student learning and expression.

All of our programs and also our home/independent study students have opportunities for students to explore visual and performing arts and other special interest subjects. Classes are offered through Learning Centers and vendors and include support in music, art, and highly creative and unique activities via skilled vendors. The result is that students can sample everything from personal piano instruction to ballet; theater arts to computer animation, and so on. Students can study professional acting classes through one of our vendors as well.

The Learning Centers 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.

Horizon is in planning stages to create state-of-the-art film and television student productions in unique partnerships with local studios and talent, and also professionals from the Hollywood industry who

support Horizon's mission of personalized learning. Although this film production department is in development, the possibilities are exciting and may result in student internships in professional films, as well as Horizon student entries in the Sacramento Film Festival.

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.