

October 2005

Dear faculty and staff,

Thank you so much for the time and effort you have put into implementing the major action plans from our last accreditation visit. Your work on curricular projects, assessments, benchmarks, rubrics and ESLR analysis and collection is a crucial part of these Major Action Plans. As you know, VCS is accredited with ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International) and WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges). In the spring of 2003 we received a clear six-year term of accreditation. Many of you were involved in the Strategic Planning process that Valley used to meet the accreditation requirements. As a result of this process, fifty-five Action Plans were developed, outlining steps to take us to the “next level” in our Quest for Excellence.

A group of educators representing ACSI and WASC visited our campus to review the work of our strategic plan in March of 03. At the conclusion of their visit, they submitted a report commending us for our work and outlining the major recommendations (action plans) that must be implemented during the upcoming six- year term of accreditation. We are currently entering the third year of our six-year term. The work associated with the Major Action Plans is ongoing, so I thank you in advance to your continued work on ESLRS, curriculum assessment, standards and benchmarks.

Following is a list of the Major Action Plans identified by the ACSI/WASC Visiting Accreditation Team:

Action Plan 4-5

Develop a document that identifies the VCS K-12 standards and benchmarks as compared with California standards, one subject per year until complete.

Action Plan 4-6

Develop proficiency assessments aligned with VCS standards and benchmarks one subject per year until complete.

Action Plan 4-9

Develop further assessment criteria and tools to evaluate and identify ESLR attainment at each level of the instructional program.

Action Plan 4-10

Implement the VCS Library Media Center’s five-year plan.

Action Plan 1-8b (Part of the differentiated instruction Action Plan)

Phase in Virtual Valley (Distance Learning) as budget permits.

In addition to the work completed on the above Major Action Plans, many of the other 55 action plans have been implemented or are in process. Please note the following programs or accomplishments that are directly attributed to the implementation and review of the 55 Action Plans:

- After-school enrichment program for elementary students
- Project based training for teachers
- Articulation and clarification of new and current AP and Honors course offerings (White Paper)
- Continuous K-12 cross-grade and subject articulation
- Phase-in of differentiated instruction
- Wireless computers available at all campus sites
- LCD projectors and laptops available for large group teaching presentations
- Skyway Campus Learning Center completed
- Kurzweil machines in place to support students with special academic needs
- Formalized professional development program
- Peer Coaching
- Chapel services enriched
- Student follow-up procedures for spiritual decisions
- Continued opportunities for student spiritual growth
- Process established for obtaining chapel feedback from students
- Christian expectations and spiritual integration stressed (New teacher and parent orientations, general teacher in-service sessions, ESLR focus)
- Strengthened parent education on the importance of spiritual growth and support
- VCS Chaplain position
- Ten Commandment emphasis
- Weekly prayer meetings at each campus for faculty and students outside of class time
- Prayer and Praise nights for parents and staff

- Every student prayed for daily
- Gospel message Bible verses painted on the gym walls and at all athletic facilities
- Spiritual Inventory given to students
- Spiritual Formation Fund
- Spiritual growth materials available to students who accept the Lord during chapel
- Gospel link on VCS web site with a notification message available on all major school program publications
- Referral steps for teachers to use if they encounter a spiritual or emotional concern with a student clearly defined
- All-school staff newsletters
- RAKES (Random Acts of Kindness and Encouragement)
- All school-fellowship events
- Formalized new teacher mentor program
- Systematic development of VCS K-12 academic standards and benchmarks
- Six-year ESLR plan developed
- Systematic professional growth training
- Individualized professional growth plans for teachers
- Differentiated instruction training
- Tier training for teachers and administrators
- Portfolio program
- Five-year Media plan implemented and “on target”
- Tegrity program established
- Virtual Valley Distance Learning Department established
- Teaching time maximized at the upper levels
- Closer relationship formed between the school and parents
- Phone and high speed Internet access for all teachers (as appropriate to the site)
- Wireless connection available in Skyway Gym
- Workstations for roaming teachers
- Emphasis on increased salaries and benefits for all staff
- Strong support network for teachers and staff
- Formalized professional growth plan in place
- Performance based compensation package for teachers and administrators
- VCS Customer Centric policy developed
- Customer Service Parent Survey distributed
- Weak areas noted in customer centric survey addressed by administrative team
- Improved communication between parents and school
- On line enrollment
- Town Hall Meetings established
- New parents contacted by phone to assess their acclamation to VCS
- A welcoming environment established on all campuses
- Customer Service resource library implemented for teachers and staff
- Quest for Kindness and Parent Care programs developed
- Adequate classrooms for all teachers and students
- Effective traffic flow pattern and overflow parking at Skyway Campus
- Police officers hired to help with movement of traffic at Skyway Campus
- Preferred parking spots for veteran teachers
- Valley Pride program
- Co-curricular components at the Skyway campus completed
- VCS facility use protocol developed

If you have comments or questions regarding any of the above items or action plans, please let me know. I am submitting a mid-term report in the spring to ACSI and WASC and would love to include your comments in the report. I can be reached via email at: dwcjlee@comcast.net. As you may or may not know, I was formally the elementary principal for VCS and presently reside in Folsom California. I oversee and direct the accreditation process for VCS via the computer and regularly scheduled conference calls with the administrative team and anyone else that might be involved in the implementation of the 55 Action Plans.

Serving Together,

Claudia Lee
Director of Accreditation