



# WASC Visiting Committee Final Presentation for Overseas Schools

*International School Eastern Seaboard  
March 27 - 31, 2011*



## Focus on Learning asks...

- ✓ How do you know that all students are achieving based on our schoolwide student goals and academic standards?
- ✓ Is the school doing everything possible to support high achievement for all its students?





# Organization for Student Learning: School Purpose, Governance, School Leadership, Staff, School Environment, Reporting Student Progress, and School Improvement Process

## Areas to Celebrate

- ✓ Vision, Mission, Philosophy of Learning, and ESLRs
- ✓ Faculty and Staff
- ✓ Superintendent and Elementary Principal
- ✓ Professional Development
- ✓ Positive School Culture
- ✓ Responsive to Situations



# Organization for Student Learning: School Purpose, Governance, School Leadership, Staff, School Environment, Reporting Student Progress, and School Improvement Process

## Areas for Focus

- ✓ Clarity and Transparency
- ✓ Prioritize and Coordinate Committee Work
- ✓ Succession Planning
- ✓ Building Internal Capacity to Support Professional Learning
- ✓ Alignment of Grading/Reporting Practices
- ✓ Shared Leadership Capacity
- ✓ Analysis of Data to Inform Decisions



# Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

## Areas to Celebrate

- ✓ Curriculum Development
- ✓ Unit Planners
- ✓ Professional Development
- ✓ Assessment Literacy
- ✓ Student Understanding of ESLRs



# Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

## Areas for Focus

- ✓ Completing Curriculum Review & Unit Planning
- ✓ Schoolwide Assessment Guidelines
- ✓ Differentiation
- ✓ Technology Integration



# Support for Student Personal and Academic Growth

## Areas to Celebrate

- ✓ Hiring of Additional Student Support Personnel
- ✓ Progress in ESL
- ✓ Co-Curricular Program
- ✓ Sense of Community



# Support for Student Personal and Academic Growth

## Areas for Focus

- ✓ Differentiation
- ✓ ESL in the Mainstream
- ✓ Monitoring Absence of Counselor
- ✓ MS and HS Pastoral Programs



# Resource Management and Development

## Areas to Celebrate

- ✓ Paying Off of Debt
- ✓ Attractive Salaries and Fringe Benefits



# Resource Management and Development

## Areas for Focus

- ✓ Budget Process



# Thai Language & Culture

## Areas to Celebrate

- ✓ Program Recognized and Supported By Community
- ✓ Students
- ✓ Opportunities for Students
- ✓ Understanding of Thai Language, Culture, Social Study, Geography, History, and Literature



# Thai Language & Culture

## Areas for Focus

- ✓ Common Planning Time for Thai Department
- ✓ Curriculum Review and Alignment
- ✓ Evaluation of Courses to Maintain Effectiveness





# Schoolwide Strengths

1. ISE has a clearly stated Vision, Mission, Philosophy of Learning, and expected schoolwide learning results (ESLRs) that are visible throughout the school culture and provide a unifying element in all aspects of school operations. Students, parents, faculty, and administrators all viewed the ESLRs as a strength of the school. The ESLRs are already beginning to be embedded in the program and life of the school and are not just a set of statements found in publications.



## Schoolwide Strengths

2. ISE has faculty and staff that are extremely professional and are of a high caliber. They operate as a community and it is obvious that there is genuine care for all community members.



## Schoolwide Strengths

3. The Superintendent and Elementary Principal are significant strengths of the school. During the focus group discussion, faculty commented on the fact that administrators play a very important role, know their faculty and the subject areas well, and are incredibly supportive of educational programs and best practices.



## Schoolwide Strengths

4. ISE has a robust professional development program on offer to faculty. This is one of the reasons members remain at ISE for a longer period of time.



## Schoolwide Strengths

5. The school culture reflects the trust, caring and respect for differences inherent in the philosophy of the ISE community. There is an effort to making the school a welcoming place for community members through formal and informal means such as the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), Thai assemblies, International Day, and Family Fun Day. Students see this as a strength of the school and faculty recognize that the school acts as a 'magnet' for the community.



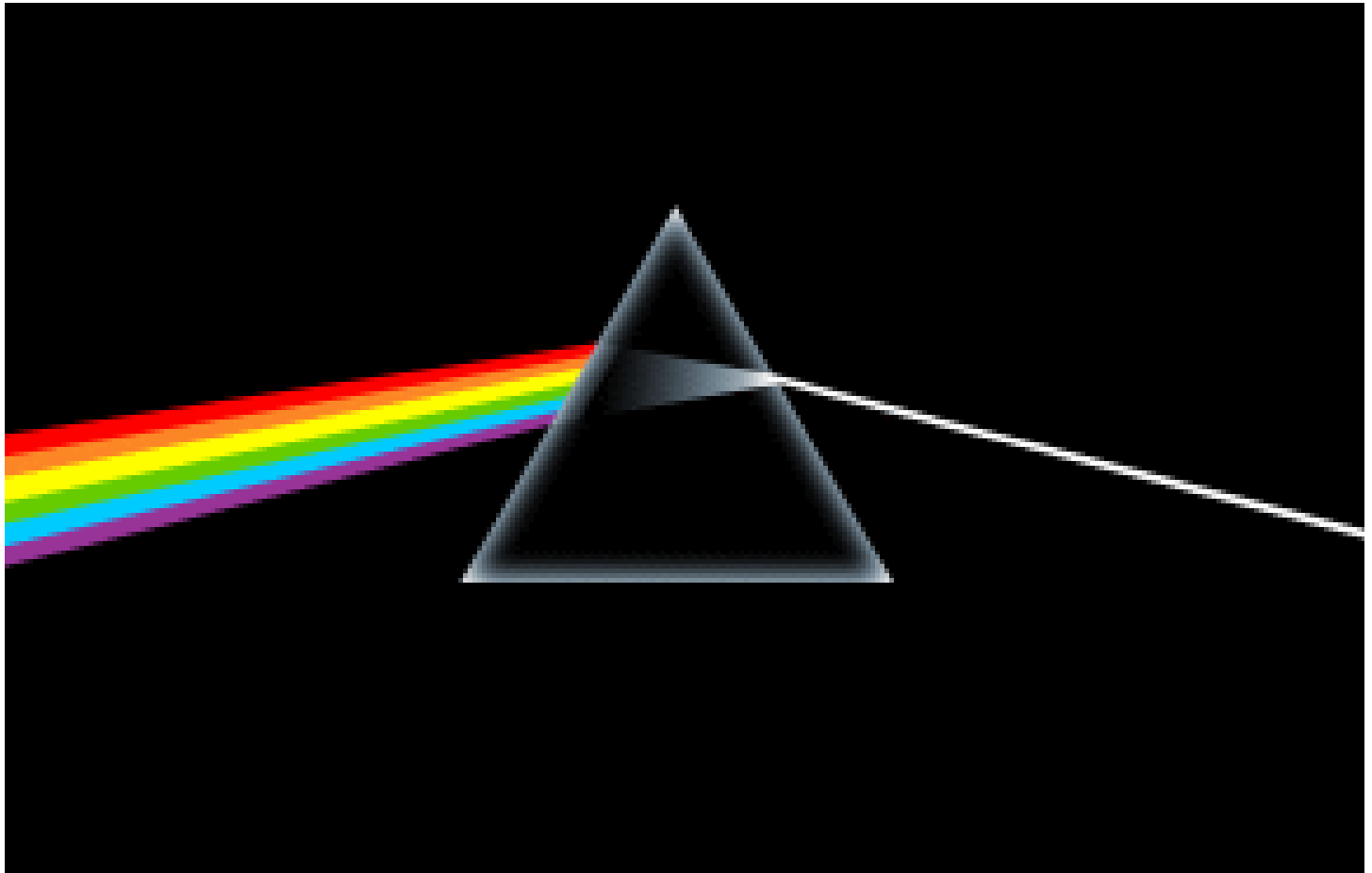
## Schoolwide Strengths

6. ISE is responsive to situations that may impact student learning as they arise (e.g., a sudden decline in enrollment; an increase in ESL students). The administration and faculty have demonstrated efforts to align programs and structures through dialogue.



## Schoolwide Strengths

7. Due to tight fiscal control over the past ten years, the school has been able to complete their commercial debt payments this year. With the removal of the budgetary need for debt service, the school will be able to consider how to best incorporate these funds into the budget.





# Schoolwide Critical Areas for Focus

## ASSESSMENT

1. ISE should establish high standards of consistent practice to ensure that assessment accurately reflects learning and is in support of learning. Specific areas include:
  - ✓ Utilizing a unit development process to facilitate the development of common assessments linked to the standards being measured in each unit;
  - ✓ Implementing schoolwide guidelines aligned to research-proven best practice related to assessment, grading, and reporting; and
  - ✓ Synthesizing and analyzing the use of assessment results to inform decisions at the classroom, division, and schoolwide levels.



# Schoolwide Critical Areas for Focus

## DIFFERENTIATION

2. ISE should establish high standards of consistent classroom practice and resources available to ensure that each student is appropriately challenged and supported. Specific areas include:
  - ✓ Clarifying the identity of the school in relation to ESL and special needs;
  - ✓ Developing guidelines regarding differentiation in the mainstream classroom;
  - ✓ Identifying the necessary resources to support students with ESL needs and special learning needs; and
  - ✓ Providing on-going professional development to continuously build faculty capacity to differentiate.



# Schoolwide Critical Areas for Focus

## SCHOOLWIDE ALIGNMENT

3. ISE should establish structures, procedures, policies, and methods of accountability (teacher evaluation) to unify the implementation of initiatives that will positively impact student learning. Specific areas include:
  - ✓ Building internal capacity (e.g., teacher leaders, mentor teachers) to support professional learning in key areas (e.g., assessment, unit planning);
  - ✓ Developing and maintaining shared leadership capacity;
  - ✓ Optimizing the use of available time for collaboratively focusing on student learning; and
  - ✓ Ensuring accountability of implementation of initiatives is built into the teacher evaluation process.



# Schoolwide Critical Areas for Focus

## MARKETING

4. Facing significant changes in demographics and competition from neighboring schools, the ISE Board and administrators should actively develop and aggressively pursue a marketing strategy, along with a plan to upgrade the school facilities that will keep the current students at the school while attracting new families to enroll their children at ISE. Consideration should be given to contracting the services of an outside consultant who will be able to develop plans for these programs as well as contribute to the implementation of the plans.

“The best way to predict  
the future is to invent it.”

– Alan Kay

