

**Vancouver School of Arts and Academics
Accreditation Site Visit
Wednesday, June 2, 2010**

Accreditation Standard #7:

Support Standard: Facilities and Finance

Guiding Principle

The school plant (consisting of site, buildings, equipment, and services) is an important factor in the functioning of the educational program. The school plant serves as a vehicle for the implementation of the school mission. The school plant should provide for a variety of instructional activities and programs and for the health and safety of **ALL** persons. The school plant should incorporate aesthetic features that contribute to a positive educational atmosphere while providing for needed flexibility. In addition to an appropriate facility, sufficient fiscal resources must be available, accounted for and effectively used in order for any school to accomplish its mission and expectations for student learning.

During the 2006-2007/2007-2008 school years, Vancouver School of Arts and Academics was completely remodeled. The remodeled learning environment reflects our effort to integrate the arts and academics in a manner which encompasses our belief about teaching and learning. Each art form has state of the art equipment to support their effort. Each academic area has the space and equipment to create a vibrant learning environment.

Additionally, Vancouver School of Arts and Academics and Vancouver Public Schools meet all the indicators for this support standard. Over the last 4 years, there have been significant improvements in the technology available to students and teachers for the purpose of instruction and learning. We have added 38 laptop computers provided by the Computers for Kids program facilitated by OSPI; every classroom has LCD projectors and document cameras and in all teaching spaces; in collaboration with PTSA, 4 SMART Boards were installed, 2 in Science and 2 in MS Humanities; the building houses one Responder Unit to support the use of formative assessments. In conjunction with the CTE department, we recently added courses, with the necessary programs and equipment, in graphic design, digital photography, and tools for technology. All these technology additions and upgrades are increasing teaching and learning at Vancouver School of Arts and Academics.

We are fortunate to have several benefactors beyond our normal NERC and ASB budgets. These individuals provide the additional financial support to move our opportunities for enrichment beyond the minimum.

Recently, our Moving Image Arts educator was awarded a \$25,000 Innovative Grant to bring additional technology to support the ability to create podcasts. The primary goal is to enhance the effectiveness of classroom instruction, specifically for those students who may have been absent from school and missed the initial instruction.