

Experience, achievement and reflection in boosting students' potentials in school

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Teachers, are not only the ones who transmit subject knowledge to students, but also the mentors and coaches to guide our pillars of tomorrow along their growing path. I have a passion that various and suitable platforms could be offered to students to demonstrate their hidden talents and potentials in order to make every one of them become a shining star once they have found their own performing stage. Therefore, I have been devoted to nurturing my students in the environment of love, care and respect based on my education mission. On top of this, as a Christian teacher serving in a dedicated Christian school, I truly

believe, the implementation of Invitational Education (IE) echoes perfectly with my beliefs and religious background.

It is a blessing that my School Principal has been having clear visions and support of the implementation of IE. Thus, the Invitational Education Committee in my school has been established and it has always been my honour to take up the post of the Invitational Education Committee Head. After promoting the spirit of IE for a year and a half with the participation and support by every stakeholder in school, I am much delighted to see that the core values in IE, namely, care, respect, trust and optimism have been blossoming on campus through our intentional integration of 5Ps (Places, People, Policies, Programs and Processes) not only environmentally but also humanely.

As I believe, 'people make the most difference'. Once my team and I came up with the idea of implanting the IE spirit in our school, professional workshops introducing the IE concepts have been offering to teachers and teachers from different sectors have been working closely in various domains to build a dynamic and positive IE culture. My intentional cultivation of IE concepts in LSS aims at actively motivating everyone in LSS to play a part in promoting a positive school culture through our collaborative endeavor in the implementation of 5Ps in our school plans. With the belief that 'Everyone is talented', I trust that our students can be well-trained to be responsible, compassionate and visionary leaders of tomorrow through peer-learning and peerappreciation. As facilitators, teachers intend to provide ample opportunities of holistic whole-person development such as leadership training in our big learning community for the budding young minds to grow with hope, excel with faith and shine with love. For instance, a team of "LSS IE Ambassadors" has been developed and started serving the school and community. The students ambassadors are used to wearing inviting and friendly smiles on their faces all the time to welcome every guest stepping into our campus. They are now the school representatives who are able and willing to introduce our school to all visitors confidently and provide school tours to show the guests how positive and welcoming the learning environment they are having. Communication and interpersonal skills together with a sense of belonging towards our school are spontaneously built up among students throughout the services.

To open up students' vision and enrich their life experience and exposure, some "LSS IE Ambassadors" were taking part in the 2012 IAIE World Conference to take care of the educators from all over the world. Not only did they introduce and explain the Chinese cultures to the honourable guests, but also accompanied them to visit some IE local schools. These were actually valuable authentic opportunities for students to experience and implement the IE concepts and cultures. I am pleased to receive positive feedback and appreciation from the visitors about our students' warm and welcoming hospitality offered to them after the event. Through this experience, my devotion to contribute myself to work on IE in school has been further boosted and strengthened.

Mutual appreciation is essential to nurture harmony in our big family; therefore, a series of thematic programmes were launched for our pillars of tomorrow to develop their positive attitudes. LSS Thanksgiving Festival has become an annual event including activities such as Thanksgiving Card Design Competition, Song Dedication and Thanksgiving Card Writing Activity, so as to develop students' attitude of gratitude and appreciation. To further consolidate and nurture the supportive and caring atmosphere intentionally on campus, "Blue Ribbons" Campaign is launched to encourage teachers and students to pass on a blue ribbon to show their appreciation to others. The success of the campaign is inspiring, too.

With the introduction of IE, the learning atmosphere in our school has been evidently more revitalized with the colourful display of inspiring quotes on posters and banners on campus and the refurbishment of our classroom setting. The lively and colourful school campus is definitely an alluring soul shelter for students to refresh their minds and appreciate nature's beauty. It is also worth mentioning that the refreshing flower plots used to decorate the school campus are all the masterpieces made by our students. To me, students' involvements in beautifying the school campus are much more treasurable than the physical beauty of the school set-up.

To evaluate and further improve our work, programme evaluation was conducted on a regular basis to monitor and examine the effectiveness of IE implementation in our school. This practice was strategically successful to catalyze the process of making remarkable progress in Invitational Education. When I look back, what I discover is that the remarkable progress in flourishing the IE culture in my school is a good testimony of the many blessings God has bestowed on our students and teachers. Look ahead, I shall endeavor to walk in His footsteps to enable students to uncover their unique talents and facilitate their allround development with our teachers' avid participation. I very much look forward to see sustainable development of Invitational Education in my school with my strong passion towards IE and continuous contribution to my students and my school. I strongly believe that with the special experience I have gained from being a current IAIE(HK) Executive Member and with teachers' facilitation and guidance, our next generations can be fully equipped in different contexts to explore and unleash their potentials during their self-exploratory journey of their talents and strengths.

