



“The school is highly committed to providing the highest caliber of education possible to every student at Dominican International School.” - WASC Report, March 30,2017



# Full Six-year WASC Accreditation for DIS

## DIS is granted Six-Year Accreditation Status through June 30, 2023

“The Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACS WASC) determined Dominican International School (K - 12) meets the ACS WASC criteria for accreditation. This accreditation status is based on all of the information provided by the school, including the self-study report, and the satisfactory completion of the on-site accreditation visit. “ These are the words from the letter Sr Zenaida received from ACS WASC. It is official, DIS has full accreditation for the next six years!

The school’s accreditation assures the school community that the school is a trustworthy institution for student learning. It validates the integrity of the school’s program and transcripts, and it facilitates transfer of credits to other English-speaking schools and it is critical for college/university acceptance worldwide.

Three years of hard work has paid off - we did it!



The DIS Accreditation Steering Committee:  
Back: Mr Joe Schoeman, Centre: Mr Samir Eddio, Sr Rosa Dabhi, Ms Janice Doyle, Dr. Mercia de Souza, - Chairperson, Mr John Dixon, Front: Sr Socorro Teofilo, O.P - Vice-Principal, Ms Agosh Librea, Sr Zenaida Ancheta, O.P. – Principal

# Accreditation

**After three years of intensive preparation at DIS, the school has been granted full accreditation for six years with a mid-cycle visit by their committee.**

Here are some excerpts from the report that was sent to the WASC Head Office:

- ◆ The school does an exemplary job of developing, disseminating and internalizing the D'TORCH Schoolwide Learner Outcomes. The team was impressed by how the mission of the school was personified in the character of students, faculty, staff, parents and board.
- ◆ The commitment to the principles articulated in the school's SLO's (Schoolwide Learner Outcomes) have created a warm and caring environment for students of all cultures. Testimony from students as well as the team's observations reinforce that the school provides a safe, orderly and nurturing environment for students to learn.
- ◆ DIS is to be applauded for their strong global focus in the school through student activities, community service, student trips, and participation in globally focused student clubs and events.
- ◆ The Sisters, the teachers, and the staff school-wide are to be applauded for helping students throughout the school both in and out of the classroom in the effort to make students' lives better.

- ◆ The school enjoys amazingly strong support and regard from stakeholders including the students, the parents/families, the Sisters, the teachers, the administrators, the staff, and the Board.
- ◆ The school is commended for facilitating the ease and frequency of communication between the school and parents, which is accomplished through many means, and also creates an atmosphere where parents feel they have easy access to teachers and administrators when needed.
- ◆ Students at the secondary level have a number of high quality extra-curricular activities including very active clubs, sports, conferencing, and student trips that all help to make students' school lives more vibrant, active, and meaningful.
- ◆ The School Board, the Provincial Council of the Dominican Order, and the Provincial Prioress are commended for supporting the school's SLOs, mission and vision.

This does not mean that the process stops, ACS WASC accreditation is an ongoing process of school improvement with a mid-cycle visit from two Committee members and reports to ACS WASC.



WASC Visiting Committee members at the welcoming assembly from left to right: Mr Bill Christelman, Mr Dan Waterman, Dr Kelley Ridings, Ms Lourdes San Nicolas

# Accreditation



**Mr Bill Christelman, Chairperson of the ACS WASC Visiting Committee, holding the school's self-study document.** He commented several times how impressed he was by the thorough self-study document from DIS. From the day we learned who the VC Chairperson would be, and the Steering Committee's Chairperson wrote him an e-mail to introduce the team in Taiwan, he offered his assistance. During the Christmas break, when Dr. de Souza went through the self-study sections that came in from the Focus Groups, she often needed some clarification. She had several e-mail exchanges with him and he gave tremendous support, even though it was the holiday season. In the months to follow, he was always there for the DIS team. It is a very special leader who can meet people for the first time a day before such a hard team effort has to start, and pull it all together. Bill is that person, his team was with him all the way and at the same time he made everyone at DIS feel comfortable throughout the visit. The school was indeed blessed with a Chairperson of his caliber.

In a letter to Sr. Zenaida, the VC Chairperson wrote, **"I want to thank you and your staff for making our WASC visit a very special time. You have an excellent school that I know will even become more excellent as time goes by. With the leadership you and your members provide the school, it can only continue to become an even stronger place for academic, personal and spiritual learning."**

**THANK YOU, DIS FAMILY**  
**We did it!**

**"...expressing my most profound gratitude for your kindness and hospitality extended to me and the members of the Visiting Team. To date, I continue to be mesmerized by the efforts of your stakeholders to make the visit such a memorable event for me and, I'm sure the others feel the same"** - quoted from an email written to Sr Zenaida by Ms Lourdes San Nicolas.

The VC Chairperson, meeting Sr. Evelyn Quidoles ,O.P, and Sr. Leticia Delfin, O.P. before the welcoming assembly on Monday, March 27, 2017



# Accreditation



Ms Julie Wu (front) with the Chinese dancers she trained. At the back from left to right: Sr Socorro Teofilo ,O.P.(Vice-Principal), Ms Lourdes San Nicolas, Sr Cecelia Chan, O.P. (Chairperson of the School Board), Mr Bill Christelman ( VC Chairperson), Dr Kelley Ridings, Mr Dan Waterman, Sr Zenaida Ancheta, O.P. (DIS Principal) and Dr. Mercia de Souza (Accreditation Steering Committee Chairperson)

## The DIS Family Spirit

“Our Leadership Team, is presenting you with our self-study report to provide you with insight into the operation of our school. However, we hope that you will experience much more than a document can reveal, once you meet us and get to know us. We know that the spirit of the school is as important as the analysis on paper. “ These were the words of the Chairperson of the DIS Accreditation Steering Committee written in an introductory letter to the Visiting Committee at the beginning of the self-study document that was sent to them six weeks before their visit. It was this family spirit, the warmth and welcoming feeling that they got from everyone when they arrived at the school that really impressed them. The VC remarked on this unique characteristic of DIS many times.

Mr Bill Christelman sent Dr. Mercia de Souza the following in an email after his return to California -“I want to thank you for everything you did to help make our WASC visit a very special and wonderful experience. Not only did all the work you did make our job a much easier one than sometimes happens, but the way you and everyone there looked after us helped make it a great visit. Please let your staff, students, and parents know how much we thank everyone for our wonderful visit. They all contribute to making your school a very special place.”

## Constant Improvement

**The three year journey is ended, but it is a new beginning of a six year accreditation cycle.** The accreditation process is specifically aimed at school improvement, and as the school moves through the process, DIS will endeavour to maintain the constant process of improvement that will make our school even a better place for all the students.

“We completed the writing of this document on the last day of the Year of the Monkey. However, we have been working on it since the Year of the Horse, and the evidence files, lay-out and design were finalized in the Year of the Rooster. The past three years since the initial ACS WASC visit, have been a journey of self-discovery and honest self-evaluation for the school. As we reviewed and processed the sections of the document written by various focus groups, we could sometimes pat ourselves on the back, saying, “We never knew we were so good!” However, at other times long discussion about improvement ensued, as we investigated our critical growth needs and took a good look at our shortcomings and how to address them.” - Dr Mercia de Souza, Chairperson of the Accreditation Steering Committee