

Paula Helen Stanley Fidelity Award 2013 Application
Tai Po Old Market Public School (Plover Cove) - Hong Kong
School portfolio

Being an inviting school, Tai Po Old Market Public School (Plover Cove) is a school which always puts people first. After receiving the Paula Helen Stanley Fidelity Award in 2011, regular school visits by IAIE professionals helped us develop in Invitational Education continuously. Human potentials are developed intentionally through places, policies, programs and processes.

Helix:

After examining our practices, we think we are at Step 11 Confrontation of major issues of Phase III Pervasive Adoption from the Helix Chart. At the same time, we are also practicing some traits of Step 12.

Throughout the years in the family of Invitational Education, we use IE as a philosophy in a pervasive way when we plan policies, treat people and think about our students, teachers and parents.

In the past two years, we have had some major changes and development. We have renovated our school library. Many parents and students have pointed out that the library is the heart of our school. Students enjoy reading in the library and a wide range of books and reading materials are provided for our students and teachers.

TPOMSPC also provides chances for teachers to develop their professionalism and leadership. Our visual arts teacher won the Chief Executive's Award for Teaching Excellence (2011/2012) in Arts Education. She was the only awardee in the primary education among the five winners all over Hong Kong. It was definitely an affirmative honour to our teachers and the quality of education we provide to our students.

Besides arts education, we have equipped our students to learn how to learn through e-Learning since last year. Students use tablet computers to have lessons in General Studies (Primary 4), Math (Primary 5) and Visual Arts (Primary 6). Their lessons are more interactive and they can receive instant feedback from their peers and the teacher. Having the experience from this year, we will further

develop e-Learning next year. We will use tablet computers to substitute the textbooks in Math and General Studies in Primary 5.

Another major issue that has taken place in the school is the application of TARGET Model in learning and teaching in Chinese and Math subject in Primary Five. We motivate students' learning by considering the **tasks** designed, students' **authority** and **recognition**, **grouping** and **evaluation** of learning and teaching, together with the **time** element to boost students' learning. We introduced and reported this practice to our parents in different workshops and this practice will be extended to primary six next year.

In addition, we provide chances for our students to explore their horizons through different school exchange programs. We set up a continuous relationship with schools in Taiwan in these 2 years and we take all P.5 students to explore and learn about the culture of Taiwan. Besides going to Taiwan, our students also visit Mainland China, the USA and Scotland regularly.

Moreover, we also shared our practices on IE with administrators and educators from Mainland China and Thailand. The Thai delegates have visited us twice in these two years and we have become good friends.

Brief summary on how Invitational Education has influenced or changed our environment:

At the Student Level

Trust in students' ability

We provide opportunities for our students to develop their whole-person development through activities. We trust their abilities and respect their voice. Our Student Council discusses issues which students are interested in. They even set questionnaires to collect data on students' opinion on the school lunch. They analyzed the data and reported back to their classmates in the assembly. The process was filmed and broadcasted on TV in HK in May this year.

Our School Ambassadors are responsible for introducing our school to our visitors, guests and scholars from HK and overseas. During our School Open Days, they introduce our school to the community and they get very positive

feedback from the guests. Because of this, our students are more outspoken and confident and they are proud of being a part of the school.

Internalize the values of Invitational Education

We make use of different chances to help our students to internalize the values of Invitational Education. To teach our students to care for the community, every class from P.4-6 is arranged to visit some elderly homes or special centres. Our students perform for the old people and play games with them. They enjoy the visit and they learn how to care for people.

Different programs to suit students' abilities

When we plan programs for our students, we focus on their needs and abilities. We provide gifted programs such as School Reporters, Stars of Visual Arts and Elite Writers covering areas like language, math, science, arts, music and sports. We also have programs focusing on personal growth for students who need more help with developing interpersonal relationship.

At the Teacher and Administrator Level

Having the understanding of Invitational Education, both school administrators and teachers plan policies and programs to suit people's needs. There is thorough discussion before policies are implemented. All teachers receive minutes from the administrators weekly so they understand why and what policies are discussed and implemented.

Professional development

We feel the need of disseminating IE to new teachers and re-visiting its philosophy so we started to have in-school IE workshop in our professional development time. This helps teachers to understand the core value of our school and the reasons why our school policies are implemented. There is also a need to develop teachers to promote and sustain IE so we tried to include more teachers in promoting IE in our school.

IE teachers

Once again, our teacher and student representatives were awarded IE teachers and students in Hong Kong these past few years. Through the sharing with other IE schools, we are given the opportunity to learn from other IE schools.

At the Parent Level

Partnership between parents and the school

Teachers and parents work as partners in our school. Parents take an even more active role through PTA and outreach programs. Based on mutual understanding, parents help in different school affairs from lunch time volunteers to after school tutors. Our PTA even takes the initiation to discuss the issue on changing the school uniform, especially the coat, with our sister school.

We believe that our parents are important partners in students' growth. Teachers are used to having parents helping them in different activities including game stalls in Learning Days, school picnics and even school exchange programs in Mainland China and Taiwan.

At the Community Level

Care about the community

Our school cares and serves our community. Many parents enjoy staying in the school campus after school. We are a seed school helping other schools to promote health education and environmental protection within the network. We also work with kindergartens. We invite kindergarten students to participate in our arts exhibition. Their work is displayed in our art exhibition every year.

Our school is also an Academy for the Elderly. Old people in the community come to our school to have different courses like computer, arts and crafts, cookery and planting. They even have a graduation ceremony in our school after they have finished a certain number of courses.

Growth of our school in Invitational Education after receiving the PHSFA

To further develop the caring and loving culture in our school, we need the contribution of all stakeholders.

In the future, we would like to share more about IE with our parents in workshops and Parents Day. This would promote a better mutual understanding between the school and parents in nurturing our students. We would also like to

bring in more teachers in the planning of IE for the sustainability and promotion of the philosophy in our school. It is also a right time for us to review our practices to assure they are intentionally inviting to all stakeholders.

Learning from other IE schools would be an effective way for new teachers to experience the essence of IE. We will encourage new teachers to visit some local or overseas IE schools to experience IE in practice.

From our experiences gained in the past few years, we are sure we are still putting IE in practice on the right path.