

March 21, 2019

Livingston Classical Academy Board of Directors
8877 North Main Street
Whitmore Lake, Michigan 48189

Dear Livingston Classical Academy Board of Directors,

On March 12, 2019, members of the instructional coaching team from the Hillsdale College Barney Charter School Initiative visited Livingston Classical Academy. This team included Ms. Becky Holland (science), Mr. Jordan Adams (history and Latin), Mrs. Carin Harner (elementary instruction), and Mr. Nicholis Wagner (mathematics). We visited classrooms, observed teachers, and met with Mrs. Kerri Smith and Dr. Sarah Parker. Mrs. Smith and Dr. Parker re-prioritized their calendars so they could accompany us on several of the classroom observations. This allowed us to discuss what we saw together.

The faculty, staff, and administration at Livingston Classical Academy are working diligently to uphold the mission of the school within the classroom. The faculty of LCA has always prioritized fidelity to the BCSI Program Guide, Scope and Sequence. While the teachers have endeavored to improve their instructional techniques and pacing of the curriculum, they would benefit much from continued coaching from school leadership in these areas.

The instructional coaching team noted specific strengths and considerations for improvement for the teachers and classes which we observed. We communicated these areas to Mrs. Smith and Dr. Parker at the end of the visit day, and they carefully noted the details of our report. Written feedback from the observations will be forthcoming, so that Mrs. Smith, Dr. Parker, and the teachers can use these specific notes for both encouragement and improvement. We welcome continued dialogue between the administration, faculty, and our office.

We discussed a possible second visit from a member or two of our team in April, as well as a visit from Mrs. Dorothy Kardatzke focused on the Access Literacy program. I am working on arranging these follow-up visits, and I will stay in communication with Mrs. Smith and Dr. Parker to finalize these plans.

In preparation for the next academic year, I recommend a continued push for higher enrollment numbers. This will help the upper school faculty to have a balanced teaching load, which will allow for an appropriate amount of time for both lesson preparation and instruction. More importantly, stability of leadership is what is most needed at LCA. The teachers deserve unified, consistent coaching and encouragement from the school leader, as the mission of the school truly occurs in the classroom among teachers, students, and curricula.

Thank you for all the work that you do as a governing board. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Becky Holland
Associate Director, Barney Charter School Initiative
Hillsdale College