



LAUSD Quaglia Partnership Update

Submitted by: Quaglia Institute

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This midyear report highlights the Quaglia Institute's partnership with LAUSD which includes onsite sessions with 15 Schools of Action, Student Voice survey use and application, and training a group of educators to become certified as Student Voice & Aspirations Facilitators in order to build internal capacity and sustainability. We are incredibly proud of the commitment these schools have made to amplify student voice and the actions they are taking to truly create sustainable change. Over 12,000 iKnow My Class surveys and more than 8,000 Student Voice surveys have been administered. Data from the aggregate report is included in this summary; however, it is important to note that customized reports are being used at each individual school to drive conversations and action to improve students' learning experiences. In addition to the data update, we feature a few bright spots that reflect the amazing work happening in Quaglia Schools of Action this year.

STUDENT VOICE & ASPIRATIONS VIDEO

We believe the best way to kick off this report is with the voices of the students, teachers and leaders from some of the incredible schools we work with. The following video provides a glimpse into the work occurring in six of the Quaglia Schools of Action:

Full Length Video: <http://bit.ly/Quaglia8min>

Short Version: <http://bit.ly/Quaglia3min>

We would like to extend a special thank you to the Division of Instruction and the following schools for opening their doors to the KLCS crew and for putting their practices on display for others to learn from:

- Chatsworth Charter High School
- Chatsworth Park Elementary School
- Gompers Middle School
- Reseda Charter High School
- Sal Castro Middle School
- Thomas A Edison Middle School

iKNOW MY CLASS SURVEY

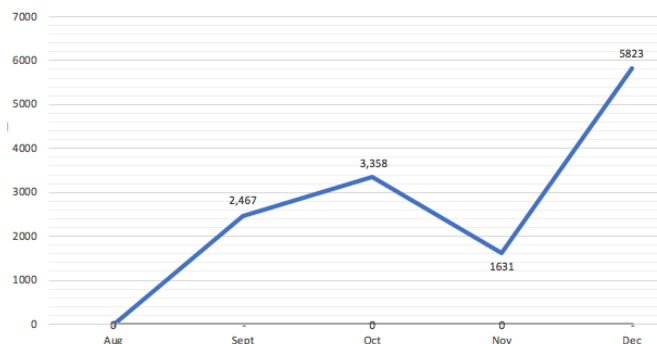
The work highlighted in the Student Voice & Aspirations video was driven by the use of student voice data. The meaningful change shared in the video is made possible by listening to the voices of students and then *partnering with students* to take action.

Between August 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019, a total of 12,666 iKnow My Class surveys were completed by students in LAUSD schools. The following schools are leading the pack with survey administration:

- Chatsworth Charter High School
- Northridge Academy High School
- Thomas A Edison Middle School

The key to effectively utilizing the iKnow My Class survey is to analyze the data **with students**. The data set should be co-owned by a teacher and students as a reflection of the specific learning environment they are collectively responsible for. Survey results are provided in real time, allowing a teacher and students to immediately process, celebrate what is working well, and identify areas for growth. The learning experience naturally improves when data is analyzed together and action steps are taken as a community of learners. The following reflections from teachers demonstrate the impact that the iKnow My Class survey is having classrooms—for students and teachers.

iKMC Surveys
Completed by Students
2019-20 Academic Year
As of December 31, 2019



“Our school has made some real changes to increase student voice over the past couple of years and continues to make more every day. One thing that we are currently excited about is the implementation of ‘Gallopings Gatherings’ (our school mascot is a mustang). In an effort to better connect our school community and the various grade levels, we have assigned 8th grade buddies to mentor and guide our new 6th graders as they get accustomed to our school and the middle school environment. Since starting this effort, we have noticed that the usually complacent 8th graders are much more emphatic and involved, and the 6th graders are becoming more outgoing and comfortable in their new school. We have more changes planned and we can't wait to see what the future holds!”

Ms. Anne Marie Goldsmith, Mathematics and Robotics Teacher, Mt. Gleason Middle School

Ernest Lawrence Middle School

Lawrence Middle School is also focused on creating a more connected community campus wide. Their Aspirations Team conducts full faculty professional development sessions in which staff review Student Voice survey data and discuss strategies for amplifying student voice at the classroom and school levels. Recently, a student focus group was videotaped and shared with the full faculty. Students were asked questions based on survey results and given the opportunity to share their ideas for school improvement. Based on student input and insights, a number of actions have been taken. For example, several teachers have committed to informal lunch gatherings with students so that they have time to talk and better connect with them.

“Mr. Van Dam is setting an example and helping students feel they belong!”

Ms. Ernestine Potts, College & Career Coach, Ernest Lawrence Middle School

The school is also continually looking for appropriate opportunities for students to take on responsibilities for creating a more connected community. For example, for the first time, the 8th grade class has a shirt that was designed by a student and is proudly worn by students, depicting the message that they are all visionaries who are making their dreams a reality!

Henry T Gage Middle School

The Gage Middle School Aspirations Team continues to expand their efforts to share leadership responsibilities with students. They are committed to listening to student voice and partnering with students in a variety of ways across the school community. Each day begins with a schoolwide recitation of their Growth Mindset Pledge and a quote, such as “No matter how long you have traveled in the wrong direction, you always have the choice to turn around.” The quotes are also shared on social media, which has a growing following of students, parents, and community members. Students are engaged as partners in the development of schoolwide events and activities. These include an Equality Day and dance (to raise awareness and acceptance for the LGBTQ community), the donation of outgrown Halloween costumes for younger children, a Christmas toy drive, recycling efforts, and an emerging Horticulture Committee where beautification, green spaces, and sustainability projects will begin to flourish at Gage. Students are also taking greater responsibility for decisions in the classroom.

“Every month teachers nominate a student from their homeroom class who has shown improvement in either academics or behavior. Lately, I have been hearing that more and more teachers are engaging their classes in the process of recognizing their peers and letting students decide who should be nominated and celebrated for their successes.”

Ms. Erika Reyes, Teacher Librarian, Henry T Gage Middle School

Student Voice & Aspirations Facilitator Training

In addition to field work with Quaglia Schools of Action, twenty educators from LAUSD were selected to attend a series of learning sessions over the course of the year to become certified Student Voice & Aspirations Facilitators (SVAF) for LAUSD. Sessions are led by a number of experts and authors in the field of student voice, including Dr. Quaglia, Dr. Corso and Dr. Fox. SVAF are learning and practicing how to coach educators to develop school cultures where student voice is a Way of Being for all learners. Their learning includes understanding the application of student voice practices at the classroom and building levels. Participants are engaged in reading and discussing resources and articles supporting student voice. Many SVAF are currently leading the student voice initiatives in their buildings. SVAF are encouraged and supported in their efforts to share their learning and best practices with others.

One Facilitator, Ms. Michelle Brait from Reseda High School, recently published an article with Dr. Quaglia in *Educational Leadership* entitled [Not Finding Their Voice](#).



Next Steps

The Quaglia Team will continue with scheduled site visits to support schools with utilizing Student Voice survey data to bring about meaningful change that embeds student voice as a Way of Being in schools. We are also continuously seeking opportunities to share bright spots between Quaglia partnership schools, both within LAUSD and with other Quaglia schools across the country and world.

Each School of Action is currently working on a Legacy Project to foster schoolwide growth of Student Voice & Aspirations. Legacy Projects are designed to go well beyond a one-time activity; the intent is to create a lasting impact and truly embed student voice into the fabric of each individual school. We look forward to sharing these Legacy Projects and other updates at the conclusion of the 2019-20 school year.

We consider it a great privilege to work with so many incredible educators across LAUSD, and we are continually impressed with their commitment to this work, the actions being taken, and the improvements observed. Please feel free to contact Dr. Lisa Lande at lande@quagliainstitute.org at any time with questions, concerns, or to learn more about our partnership work.