

Ka Lau

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Running Start Gives Students Simultaneous High School, College Credit



L to R: Freshmen Layne Campbell and Solana Olival, sophomore Audrey Mills, senior Alana Pollock, and sophomore Lynsey Morrison take a break before their HCC class last fall.

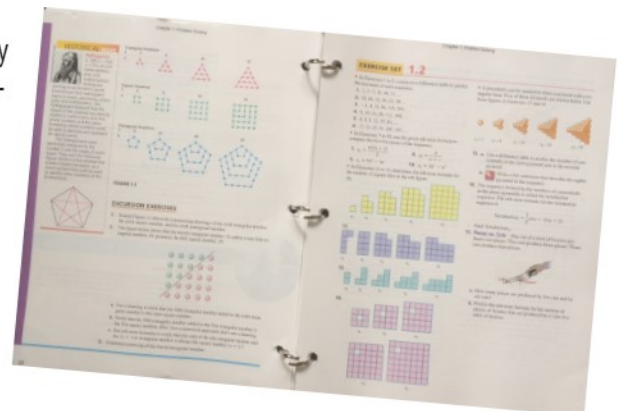
Running Start is a Hawai'i Department of Education program that allows eligible high school students to take college courses while still in high school, and simultaneously earn both high school and college credits. The program has technically been available to LCPCS students before now, but participation was limited. This school year, LCPCS has been working closely with Hawaii Community College (HCC) to make the program more available to its students. "They, up at the college, have been very willing to work with us," said LCPCS Director Kurt Rix. HCC has offered appropriate courses at its Honoka'a campus, in large part, to accommodate LCPCS and other high school students. Two Seaside freshmen, two sophomores, and one senior took English 100, *Expository Writing*, last fall, and six students are enrolled in Math 100, *A Survey of Mathematics*, this spring.

Students are provided transportation via the LCPCS van to the Kō Education Center (formerly NHERC) in Honoka'a twice a week. Each semester of a college course counts for a year of high school credit, so not only do students get ahead on basic college requirements, they free up time in their high school schedules for extra classes, or internships and other off-campus options.

"I think it's a great opportunity for our students at Laupāhoehoe to grow in many ways, including the chance to meet new people, experience a different campus, and most importantly get a small taste of what a college-level course will consist of," said Pua Wong, the school's new College and Career Readiness Advisor. "Students also

have the opportunity to learn necessary time management skills as they juggle required high school classes, dual credit, and extra-curricular activities."

It takes a lot of time to ensure that students are properly prepared and enrolled, and succeed in the college classroom. The school van has to be available, complete with fuel and a driver. Schedules and teachers must accommodate students who are off-campus several hours a week. Families also have to be committed, as they need to provide



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transportation on days when LCPCS is not in session. Ms. Wong, LCPCS Director of Curriculum Kaulana Smith and Student Records Coordinator Paula Dickey are working hard to provide the logistical support.

Next year, according to Kō Education Center Academic Advisor Kalehua Kukahiko, HCC hopes to offer the math and English courses again, along with biology and speech or history.

Director's Corner



Happy New Year! I am happy to announce that Laupāhoehoe Community Public Charter School received a five year contract from the Hawai'i State Public Charter School Commission to continue serving the Laupāhoehoe community. This renewal is a tribute to the efforts of our staff, faculty, and parents who have remained steadfast in their commitment to our school through all the ups and downs of recent years, and it is an endorsement that we are on the right path moving forward. I would like to thank all of you for your dedication to LCPCS and this wonderful community.

One recent example of those efforts was our December Makahiki event. Thanks to our school counselor, Kau'i Trainer, the Hawaiian Cultural Center of Hāmākua, community members, parents, and our LCPCS staff as a whole, our first Makahiki was a tremendous success. The event was a wonderful endeavor in embracing the values of *hā* and celebrating the traditions of Hawaiian culture.

— Kurt Rix

Seasider Spotlight

Fifth grade teacher Cheryl Borsh took a circuitous route into teaching, but she loves being at LCPCS. "I should have been doing this my entire life," she says. After an early career as a sales executive at a firm in California, and then a stint in nursing school, she found herself volunteering at LCPCS. That was in 2017, and now she's got her own classroom, and loves it.

She and her husband began vacationing regularly in Hawaii in 1992, and when Ms. Borsh was looking at nursing schools, UH Hilo seemed like a good fit. For family reasons, nursing didn't work out, but she says she feels so lucky to have ended up in the classroom. When asked what she does for fun, she responded, "But this (teaching) is fun!" She and her husband do, she finally conceded, enjoy scuba diving, and observing the fish. They also like to give back to the ocean, and spend time picking up beach litter. LCPCS is glad to have her join the 'ohana!



Fifth-grade teacher Cheryl Borsh runs marathons, too!