



**Visiting Team Report for
Ongoing Improvement Process
Of
Cross View Early Childhood
Center**



May 6-7, 2014

6645 McCauley Trail

Edina, MN 55439

(952)941-0009

crossview.net

FOREWORD

Becoming accredited is a strenuous process. Cross View Early Childhood Center and its administration are to be highly commended for their efforts in this accreditation process. The self-study document and the various arrangements for the accreditation team were done very well. It is the hope and prayer of the members of the visiting team that the enclosed document is one that is accurate and helpful for the continued improvement of Cross View Early Childhood Center.

The committee hereby expresses sincere gratitude to the faculty, staff, and students at Cross View Early Childhood Center for the opportunity to serve on the visiting team and for the many kindnesses shown to us during our visit. Each of us on the committee has grown as a result of the experience.

Cross View Early Childhood Center obviously is a good school. This was reflected not only in your self-study but also in the comments and observations of the visiting team. We were delighted with the whole climate of Cross View Early Childhood Center. The school speaks out for the Christian faith to the students and to the community very effectively.

This report is carefully written and includes specific recommendations that should be considered seriously by the school and the supporting congregations. Not every suggestion needs to be followed, but each should be considered.

The three members of the visiting team worked together as one team, but each member assumed the responsibility to examine in-depth multiple standards. This report combines the talent of all members of the team and of the committees. The report has been written and edited by the team as a whole, with only minor editing done by the team captain.

The team captain, the consultant, and the team member pledge their continued support and assistance should you care to call upon us in the implementation process.

May the Lord richly bless the faculty and constituents of Cross View Early Childhood Center so that with the Lord's help you might continue to proclaim His Gospel ever more effectively through Cross View Early Childhood Center.

Team Captain



Limitations on the Distribution, Use, and Scope of this Document

It is the official intent of the National Lutheran School Accreditation Commission that this report be considered a privileged document, to be submitted by the captain of the visiting team directly to the administration of the school. The distribution of the report and its availability for public consideration beyond that point rests solely in the hands of the school administration. Neither the captain nor the members of the visiting team are authorized to release any of the information contained in this report without the approval of the administration of the school.

The primary purpose of the visiting team has been to examine the educational ministry of the school, including courses of study, learning materials, student needs and interests, staffing, and facilities. The visiting team has attempted to assess the effectiveness of the total school program in meeting the educational objectives the school has established for itself and in meeting national NLSA standards.

It has not been the purpose of the visiting team to evaluate individual teacher performance. The use of this report as an official assessment of any staff person's professional competency would be in violation of the process and the intent under which the school evaluation was conducted. Such use would be inherently invalid since at no time during the team visit has the team been concerned with the evaluation of individual teacher performance.

Accreditation is a process that centers around the self-study conducted by the individual school. The visiting team and its subsequent report are meant to assist the school in its own process as a guideline for continual growth. Neither the team nor its report can be presumed to be the authority for validating any claims regarding health, safety, or personnel issues. Such matters are the sole responsibility of the school.

NLSA Visiting Team Members



Rachel Jeppesen, Team Member

Cletus Pfeiffer, Team Captain

Brenda Lovhaug, Consultant

VISITING TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

Captain: *Cletus Pfeiffer*

LCMS teacher/principal, Retired

5615 23rd Ave. NW

Rochester, MN 55901

Mobile: **507-319-7697**

Education: BS, Concordia-Seward; MS and Ed. S., Mankato State University-
Mankato, MN

Areas Examined: Administration, Environment – Health & Safety

Accreditation Experience: Principal at three schools becoming accredited

Served as consultant for eight schools preparing for accreditation

Served as captain or member on 27 teams

Consultant: *Brenda Louhaug*

LCMS teacher/administrator

6741 Brunswick Ave N

Brooklyn Park, MN 55429

Mobile: **612/272-3714**

Education: BA in Elementary Education and a concentration in Early Childhood from Concordia College, St. Paul, 1990

Areas Examined: Relationships, Personnel, Curriculum

Accreditation Experience: Director at a center accredited twice with exemplary status once.

NLSA Consultant: 2

NLSA Captain: 2

NLSA Team Member: 2

Team Member: *Rachel Jeppesen*

LCMS teacher/preschool director

15671 140th St NW

Sunburg, MN 56289

Mobile: **320-220-7332**

Education: BA, Concordia-St. Paul; ACT (SLeD) certificate for Administration
LCMS

Areas Examined: Christian Mission, Teacher/Child Relations- Health & Safety

Accreditation Experience: Director at one school for accreditation

Served as member on two teams

Accreditation Recommendation

On the basis of our review of the School Profile, the NLSA Standards Checklist, the narrative statements, and the School Improvement Plan for Cross View Early Learning Center, we...

... **recommend NLSA accreditation.**

Name of Team Captain Cletus Pfeiffer

Signature of Captain  Date: May 7, 2014



Brenda Lovhaug, Consultant



Rachel Jeppesen, Team Member

Team Checklist

- 1 YES The school has successfully completed NLSA Phase I.
- 2 YES The school has successfully completed the Standards Checklist.
- 3 YES The exhibits are appropriate and complete.
- 4 YES The school indicated satisfactory compliance with the NLSA Standards.
- 5 YES The narrative summary statement for each section indicates valid reasons for incomplete compliance or non-compliance.
- 6 YES The needs assessment adequately identifies school and student needs.
- 7 YES The School Improvement Plan states valid, student-centered goals for improving the school's program based on identified needs and NLSA standards.
- 8 YES The School Improvement Plan provides for an adequate process for addressing the identified goals, including objectives and strategies to be used, a time frame, and methods for evaluation.

Standards Evaluations for Cross View

Standard 1:

- The ECC's philosophy emphasizes learning through play but this is not consistently observed in all of the classrooms.
- The mission statement and the Christian philosophy are not prominently and consistently displayed.

Standard 2:

- The inconsistency of reliable technology places stress and frustration on teachers as they try to communicate with parents.

Standard 3:

- A process is not in place to insure that the annual evaluation for the director is done.
- Continue to refine the needs assessment process so that it can better serve the Center as an improvement tool.
- Intra-building communication reportedly is inconsistent.

Standard 4:

- All teachers do not have at least one early childhood professional membership (i. e. LEA or NAEYC)

Standard 6:

- There is a safety concern about a slab of sidewalk just outside the gate to the play area which has "heaved" over the winter.
- There is a perceived need to increase the learning experiences available in the outdoor playground.

Standard 7:

- The visiting team has noted some discrepancies in the implementation of the learning philosophy.

Goals Evaluation for Cross View

Goal 1: **CONNECT**

The Center has broadened its horizon by exhibiting sustainable and engaging relationships among and between the various communities.

We think that achieving this goal will help assure that CVECC continues to be influential and a prominent resource in the community.

Goal 2: **GROW**

The staff of Cross View Early Childhood Center has grown across curricular areas to strengthen the curriculum as we meet the needs of the children.

We feel that this is an extremely important goal to achieve. This will not only improve the educational outcomes for each child, but also will improve alignment throughout the center.

Goal 3: **GROW**

Technology is fully integrated into the Center and learning environment.

A reliable technology system will enhance communication.

Goal 4: **SERVE**

We served parents by making them strong school partners in the learning environment of their children.

Partnering with parents will only make the educational opportunities stronger. Since it takes a village to raise a child, we commend you for building that village.

Strengths at Cross View

- The clientele with whom we spoke are extremely dedicated to CVECC.
- The staff is very dedicated and care for the children as if they are their own.
- Both church and school share a common Bible study curriculum (*The Story*) for the year.
- Almost everybody had trouble declaring a suggestion of “What would you change if you had a magic wand?”
- We observe a strong church-school connection due to highly effective leadership.
- Staff-to-parent communication is strong.
- The longevity of staff provides a stable environment.
- The key card entry system creates a very secure and controllable environment.
- You have a high number of teachers who are rostered.
- You have incorporated the church’s Christian Art Festival into the curriculum.
- The Center is considered simultaneously a mission and a ministry.

General Concerns for Cross View

- Visibility of a Christian identity is not consistently prominent.
- Internal communication reportedly seems to be lacking consistency and completeness.

Suggestions for Cross View to Consider

- We recommend that you obtain consulting services and observation from experts in the Early Childhood field (i. e. Lynn Gehrke, Barb Schoenbeck, or Sue Starks) to aid in creating classrooms that promote developmentally appropriate readiness to transition to the next level(s).
- Study and define more specific goals and objectives for each level within the Center.
- We strongly recommend that Cross View Early Childhood Center upgrade the technology infrastructure to allow all staff to access communication and information sites consistently.
- It appears that you have one room/space available to be used as a classroom. We recommend that you study internally the use of this space to enhance the program.
- Internal communication should be analyzed with an eye toward implementing a more effective process.