

**Great academics: our students thrive** in three languages (English, Spanish, Chinese), Singapore math, high level science, social studies, art, PE, computer programming, and cursive writing. **Great teachers**, whom we give academic freedom to create fine curricula. No teaching to the test, but 3 or 4 days of the Iowa Assessments put us in **the top 1% nationally**. Our young students perform exceptionally in the **HSK exam** for Chinese language competence. We have a **full 180 days of instruction** and long days (8:30-4:10; to 3:35 for early K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) with refreshing breaks.

**Small class sizes:** We cap our classes at 15 students. We **average 10 students per class**. Students learn well with such direct engagement with the teacher and with each other. The cost in faculty time is significant but our operating costs are similar to total public-school operational costs.

**Great after-school clubs:** Our teachers volunteered to offer clubs for **engineering, theater, gardening, science, the Battle of the Books, and running**. LCA parents help with several of these clubs, especially the engineering (and Lego Robotics) club with its many adherents!

**Student performances:** Students intone songs in even more than our three academic languages, at **each end of term**, and in outside venues; you may hear them sing in other European, African, and Asian languages, and they accompany some songs with dance and skits. They learn **public speaking and appropriate self-confidence** that serves them well all through life.

**Three breaks a day... keeps them fresh** – recess and snack at 9:40, lunch and recess at 11:45, and snack at 2:50. Recess is vigorous, to be sure, with all manner of games that the students choose, often of their own making.

**Field trips:** Students need to see the **wider worlds of culture and nature**. A host of trips are recounted on our website and on Facebook. All of our students, other than those ill, and 21 parents and teachers absorbed the **Three Rivers Petroglyphs** on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019. Before the trip the students learned about the vanished culture, and afterwards they wrote about it for the school and for our generous hosts at the BLM.

**Community outreach:** We are in demand for **performances at international festivals**, especially for our joyful Spanish and Chinese songs. We've gathered supplies for the Community of Hope and **gleaned cabbage for La Casa de Peregrinos**. Teacher and Board Chair Vince Gutschick presents the **Science Digest weekly on KRWG-FM**. We link with **NMSU students** for computer coding and biology lab learning, and with Arrowhead Early College High **for robotics learning**. Students take action on **environmental issues**, as with the Climate Strike and engaging our Congressional delegation. Our signature community event, **Food for Thought**, is an evening of dinner and conversation with 10 very interesting people from the community.

**Support for diversity, by origin and by socioeconomic status:** We are truly international, with our students this year coming from families from the **US, India, the UK, Nigeria, Mexico, Sudan, Jordan, Japan, Egypt, China, Pakistan, and Ghana** – remarkable in a student body numbering 41! We celebrate the cultures. We also treasure social diversity. Talented and motivated students are found among parents of all socioeconomic levels. **We help engage students with scholarships**, in the amount of over \$36,000 last year. The identities of scholarship recipients are known only to our Head of School and the Board.

**Prized direction:** Dr. Lou Ellen Kay is our founder and Head of School. She established and funded the start of the school as the **most important thing she could do with the rest of her life**. **Our Board, like her, is all-volunteer**, providing that necessary mix of work, wealth (modest!), and wisdom. We must not forget **our dedicated volunteers** among teachers and helpers, and **our many generous donors** of funds, gifts in kind, and service!

**There's more:**

**Free play before and after school**, 7:30-8:30 AM and 4:10-5:30 PM. This is free of charge and helps out **working parents**. It is **even more valuable for students** who socialize eagerly and often vociferously.

**Our presence online:** on our **Website and Facebook** we have a host of pages and posts about our mission, our vision, our policies, our admissions, the opportunities for volunteers and donors, and stories of so many activities in and out of classes.

**You can learn even more about us** at <https://lascrucesacademy.org> and <https://facebook.com/lascrucesacademy.org>. In person, you can see even more what we are about. We have open houses every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month (except July and sometimes June), 8-10 AM and 5:50-6:30 PM. Can't make those? Please call Lou Ellen for an appointment at (575) 521-9384.