

SACS Accreditation

What is Accreditation?

Lemon Bay will be participating in the Southern Association Accreditation process this year. This process occurs every five years and is a voluntary method of quality assurance developed more than 100 years ago by American universities and secondary schools, and designed primarily to distinguish schools adhering to a set of educational standards. The accreditation process is also known in terms of its ability to effectively drive student performance and continuous improvement in education. Today accreditation examines the whole institution—the programs, the cultural context, the community of stakeholders—to determine how well the parts work together to meet the needs of students. Lemon Bay sees the accreditation process as an opportunity to build true capacity to improve student learning and make continuous school improvement a distinctive reality.

Lemon Bay will conduct an internal self-assessment against a set of research-based quality standards. The internal self-assessment includes stakeholder surveys from parents, students and staff. Honest self-evaluation is unparalleled in its ability to uncover and bring into sharp focus special challenges for an institution that may not have been fully understood. The external review is the hallmark of the accreditation process, and like the internal self-assessment, it energizes and equips the leadership and stakeholders of an institution or school system to tackle those areas that may be thwarting desired performance levels.

What are the research based standards that will be assessed?

The new **AdvancED Standards for Quality** mark an evolution in continuous improvement and accreditation. While leveraging accreditation as a powerful tool for driving effective practices in support of student learning, these research-based Standards also emphasize teaching and learning; share embedded common themes across Standards; and address students' ability to successfully develop learning, thinking, and life skills as critical elements of student achievement.

AdvancED Standards for Quality

Standard 1: Purpose and Direction

Standard 2: Governance and Leadership

Standard 3: Teaching and Assessing for Learning

Standard 4: Resources and Support Systems

Standard 5: Using Results for Continuous Improvement

When and what is the external review?

The external review will take place on February 13th and 14th. A team of trained professionals will come to the school to talk with stakeholders to assess and measure the school against the accomplishment of the five AdvancEd standards of quality assurance. The team will give the school a rating in each standard and will make recommendations to the school for improvement. The school has five years to initiate the recommendations and during this time, they must report out on the progress each year.

Stakeholder Surveys:

Lemon Bay High School is conducting three different stakeholder surveys. The administration of stakeholder surveys and the analysis of the results is a foundational practice of an effective system, an essential component of continuous improvement, and required in the accreditation process. We value your opinion and ask that you take the time to complete this survey. Please be assured that your responses to this survey will be anonymous. Your honest opinion is

appreciated. **Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.**

PARENT SURVEY

<http://www.advanc-ed.org/survey/public/7250457>

STAFF

<http://www.advanc-ed.org/survey/public/6464833>

STUDENT

<http://www.advanc-ed.org/survey/public/7594297>