

Lanakila Baptist School



Celebrates 50 Years



The founder believed that holistic education includes moral values and an honorable work ethic.

beautiful island as a missionary and pastor. This man, Robert K. Knutson, believed education “that presents only humanism does a disservice to children,” and instead education must include “God, His Word and His Authority” along with “moral values and an honorable work ethic.”

To achieve this mission, Lanakila Baptist School (LBS) was established in 1969 as a ministry of Lanakila Baptist Church. Now, fifty years later, around 150 students – from three-year-old preschoolers to high school seniors – develop their God-given talents at an elementary cam-

pus in Waipahu and a junior and senior high campus in Ewa Beach.

COLLEGE PREP ACADEMICS AT AN AFFORDABLE TUITION

LBS’s students have gone on to attend top universities, including Ivy League schools and military academies. And nearly all students have received scholarships, making the small school with a 15:1 student-teacher ratio and affordable tuition a valuable educational option.

LBS utilize the Abeka curriculum for all subject areas on both campuses and Saxon Math for intermediate and high school.

Fifty years ago, a man who was raised on a wheat farm in Montana and who became a Christian while serving in the US Navy would find his way to our

by *Stephanie Frank*



Lanakila Baptist School provides a 15:1 student-teacher ratio and affordable tuition.

This curriculum allows our students to meet or exceed state and national standards on nationally normed tests. Director and Principal Maria Pauley expounds, “We want to ensure the information our students are learning is the truth.”

In preschool and kindergarten, reading is emphasized, so “by the time they end kindergarten, many students are already reading and prepared to enter first grade,” says Pauley.

LBS include technology in learning. Elementary students learn typing skills and coding while 6th grade to high school utilizes e-books with Google Chromebook. “For a small school, we have learned to use technology well,” explains Pauley. “We want our students to

understand technology is another resource tool for learning.”

As students approach their last years of high school, they are offered SAT-prep courses and college and career support, assuring they “are spiritually and academically prepared to face the stressors of college life, certification training, or the workforce,” says Pauley.

CHRISTIAN CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Nearly 800 alumni have graduated and served throughout the world – as missionaries, innovators, entrepreneurs, artists, and more.

One alumnus is Pastor Jose Esquibel. In 1974, his father was transferred to Hickam Air Force Base. In February 1975, while

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Over half of our students are National Honor Society or National Junior Honor Society members.

Jose rode Lanakila Baptist Church's ministry bus to Sunday service, he accepted Jesus Christ as his savior.

After much prayer, Jose met founding Pastor Knutson, who offered him a work scholarship. From 1976 to 1978, Jose worked as a janitor, while also immersing in LBS's rigorous academic and spiritual teachings. When he graduated, he not only received his diploma and a solidified desire to serve God, but he also received an address of a lovely junior student. During his time at Baptist Bible College in Missouri, they corresponded via letter, and upon her graduation, they married, bringing together a pair that would serve as missionaries in England for over 20 years.

"We want our students to understand the equipment and then to think about what they can build or do."

In September 2018, Pastor Esquibel returned to the church and school that developed him academically and spiritually. Serving as Pastor and President, he strives to continue LBS's mission of preparing students who "impact generations for the glory of God."

Athletics, Arts, Community Service, and More

In addition to Christ-centered, academic education, LBS offers diverse programs to holistically develop students' talents.

LBS competes in Hawaii's Interscholastic League of Honolulu (ILH) Division III and has their own teams as well as other sports through a PAC-5 team. Students share artistic talents through hula,

biannual musicals, choirs, praise band, violin orchestra, and hand chimes.

Community service is very important to their mission. Parents, students and staff volunteer at community events such as Taste of Waipahu, pick up trash for the Adopt a Highway program, and collects over 5 tons of food for their annual food drive, just to name a few.

"Each year, over 50 percent of our student body are National Honor Society or National Junior Honor Society members," says Pauley, while also mentioning the school has karate and piano, which can be joined during Extended After School Care.

AN 'OHANA

From the provocative 60s to the complex 21st century, Lanakila Baptist School continues to provide a Christian education.

Principal Pauley concludes, "We are here to partner with families in training up their children, so when they grow old, they can impact generations for Jesus Christ, in whatever profession they may choose."

As LBS celebrates the past 50 years, its leaders also articulate goals for the next: acquiring land for one unified PK3-12 campus, obtaining accreditation, developing competitive athletics, offering orchestra, and extending the LBS 'ohana. 🌈

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