

Self-Introduction by Davis Chan

It is a true blessing to serve as the next principal of Wah Yan College, Hong Kong, a school with an impressive history of serving and educating young people in Hong Kong. I hope to work together with the team to continue this tradition and build upon it.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. Like many in my generation, I was brought up in a grassroots family, in public housing with two working parents. They sent me to a Catholic Boys' School with a missionary background, St Joseph's Primary School and College, where, as with WYHK, academic achievements were just as important as character and values. In ways that many Wahyanites can probably relate, my schooling played a major role in teaching me many skills, but also the critical values of respect, honesty, compassion, and responsibility, which I now strive to embrace within my life and all interactions.

Although I was not at the top of my class in school, my teacher uncovered my potential in drawing, and nominated me to represent the school in various art competitions. This experience significantly boosted my confidence and passion for art. Initially, it was my dream to study at the School of Design of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. However, the curriculum of my secondary school did not fit the entry requirements for the School, but that did not sway my determination to steer my career towards art and design. I became a student at the Hong Kong Institute of Education, majoring in Art and Design. I ultimately found my calling in education when I met Dr. Victor Lai, my professor of Painting and Art History at Hong Kong Institute of Education. He became a true inspiration to me, showing me how an educator's genuine empathy and care for his students could propel their learning and encourage them to reach their goals. A few years later, I finally accomplished my dream of studying at the School of Design of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts.

I started my career as an art teacher. At the same time, I continued my own art creation and organized various art education projects for my students as well as other young aspiring artists in Hong Kong. To further my knowledge of culture and art administration, I obtained my Master of Arts in Cultural Management from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Subsequently, I founded a non-profit art organization and, with the amazing support of local art connoisseurs, established a biannual Outstanding Student Artist Award of Hong Kong.

During my 23 years of service in schools, I have had the unique opportunity to contribute to the establishment of two new schools: Elegentia College, where I served as discipline master and subject panel head, and HKICC Lee Shau Kee School of Creativity, where I held the role of Assistant Principal. I joined Hong Kong Baptist University Affiliated School Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School in 2008 and served as Vice Principal there. Then I joined the Canadian International School of Hong Kong, where I have served since 2015.

My incredible experiences within local aided, DSS, and international schools have not only expanded my knowledge and application of the local secondary curriculum and HKDSE, as well as international curriculums and teaching pedagogies including IGCSE, IAL and IB, but have also given me understanding and insight concerning different approaches to school administration and leadership. I fully understand that school development is not an individual effort, but a collaborative team endeavor, under purposeful leadership. As the saying goes, “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” Ultimately, to further my knowledge and application of leadership and collaborative teamwork, I completed my doctoral study in organizational leadership at Boston’s Northeastern University in 2018.

On a more personal note – like many Wahyanites, I enjoy playing sports in my leisure time – we have the same roots. Some of the most enjoyable moments for me have been playing football with my son and coaching golf at my previous schools. However, one of my favorite hobbies is watching movies. Recently, I watched a local movie called *Still Human*, an emotional story about how Cheong Wing, a man who lost his ability to walk in an accident, powerfully encouraged his domestic helper’s talent for photography and how he supported her in achieving her dreams. In the process of supporting her, Cheong Wing himself became inspired, and his own dream was actualized. I believe this process is the same for educators – while we focus on assisting students to uncover and achieve their own dreams, we too become fulfilled and actualize our own.

WYHK has a 100-year history of excellence, and these corridors and classrooms tell touching and beautiful stories about how students were inspired by Jesuit Fathers and the teachers of WYHK. I look forward with great excitement and humility to hearing these stories from the WYHK community and learning the wisdom and approach of Jesuit education through all of you.

The Jesuit Fathers, teachers, colleagues, students, parents and past students of WYHK have the collective mission of furthering the vision of Jesuit Education and continuing the extraordinary legacy of WYHK’s past. It is an honor for me to be among you, to reveal and bring to fruition our students’ greatest dreams, for the greater glory of God.



Davis Chan
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