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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

F. B. Leon Guerrero Middle School Received WASC Accreditation

Tiyan, Guam – The Guam Department of Education is proud to announce and congratulates F. B. Leon Guerrero Middle School for receiving the accreditation from the Accrediting Commission of Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACS WASC). The ACS WASC Commissioners have determined F. B. Leon Guerrero Middle School 6th to 8th grade meets the ACS WASC criteria for accreditation. This accreditation status is based on all of the information provided by the school, including the school's report, and the satisfactory completion of the accreditation visit.

The Commission's decision to grant a six-year accreditation status is a significant milestone, reflecting the institution's commitment to maintaining high standards of education and continuous improvement. The scheduled progress report in the 2024-2025 school year will be an opportunity to assess and document ongoing advancements, while the mid-cycle report and visit during the 2026-2027 school year will serve as critical checkpoints to ensure that the institution remains on track with its strategic goals and accreditation requirements.

The F. B. Leon Guerrero Middle School has indeed faced significant challenges, particularly with the structural safety issues that led to its shutdown during the second semester of the 2022-2023 school year. The situation necessitated a move to a shared campus with Okkodo High School, where they operated in double sessions. Despite these hurdles, the school community has shown remarkable resilience and dedication to maintaining a high standard of education for its students. This commitment is a testament to the strength and adaptability of the students, faculty, and staff, who have worked together to overcome these obstacles and continue providing quality learning experiences.

Superintendent Dr. Erik Swanson said, *"Despite the adversity, F.B.L.G. embraced the challenge of operating in a double session format with Okkodo High School, ensuring that the students' education continued uninterrupted. This cooperative effort is a testament to the strength of community and the shared commitment to academic excellence. The faculty, staff, and students have collectively embodied a spirit of perseverance, ensuring that high-quality learning does not falter, even in the face of challenges. Their story is an inspiring reminder that with unity and determination, educational communities can surmount any obstacle to benefit their learners."*

Principal Melissa Mafnas said, *"Achieving accreditation from the ACS WASC is a proof to the hard work and collective effort of everyone involved – from the dedicated teachers to the engaged students, supportive parents, and diligent staff. It's a shared victory that not only celebrates the present achievements but also sets a solid foundation for future growth and success. We look forward to leveraging this recognition to further enhance its educational programs and initiatives. The accreditation is more than a mere credential; it's a promise of the school's ongoing pursuit of excellence and a brighter future for its students."*

For more information, please contact Principal Melissa D. Mafnas at 671-653-2080 or email fblghawks@gdoe.net

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