

TJHSST Priorities 2007-2012

Focus Area: Academics

Definition

This focus area includes goals and objectives that affect curriculum, student outcomes, and methods of instruction to achieve the desired results identified by the SACS study. These goals and objectives were formed with TJHSST's mission and beliefs statement, and future trends in mind.

Goal:

To examine and improve curriculum to reflect our desired results: problem solving, critical inquiry and research, intellectual curiosity, social responsibility.

Priority Action Items:

Enhance TJHSST curriculum so that students develop research skills at all grade levels through vertical integration.
Continue to develop interdisciplinary lessons as needed.
Explore offering more flexibility in course selection, including high-level course work as an alternative to AP.
Initiate regulations for expected performance to remain a TJHSST student.
Review division course offerings in terms of vertical integration.
Explore and pilot alternatives to the current school calendar.

Focus Area: School Community and Climate

Definition

School community and climate refers to the level of morale, spirit, drive, confidence and the well-being of students, faculty, staff, and parents including all aspects of student life: extra-curricular activities, social activities, clubs and organizations, and co-curricular activities.

Goal:

To enhance the sense of community at TJHSST for students, faculty, staff, parents, and other stakeholders by enriching the learning and work environment.

Priority Action Items

Assess the Jefferson Learning Community experience to maximize support for collaboration and professional development.
In order to foster respect and understanding, develop ways to insure that the climate at TJHSST is welcoming and inclusive of the diverse populations found in Northern Virginia.
Twice a year, evaluate the leadership groups (Administrative Team, Leadership Team, Division Managers, faculty, staff, the Student Government Association, and class governments) by their constituents.
Create an Evaluation Team to monitor this Action Plan's progress, provide accountability, give feedback to the Administrative and Leadership Teams, and instill community ownership of the process.

Focus Area: Ethics and Social Responsibility

Definitions

Ethics: *The rules and conduct in association with moral principles or with respect to the rightness or goodness of actions.*

Social Responsibility: *Awareness of the shared interests of humanity, and personal and shared responsibility to contribute to and improve such shared interests.*

Goal:

To create an exemplary model of ethics and socially responsible behavior at TJHSST.

Priority Action Items:

Assess how best to provide ethics instruction and promote socially responsible behavior.
Improve communication between the administration, teachers, counselors, and involved students and parents regarding action taken in response to ethical violations.
Improve communication between the school and parents about the negative effects of poor ethical decisions.

Focus Area: Resources

Definition

In this plan, resources are defined as Time, Monetary Funds, and Building Space Resources. (See appendix for more definitions).

Goal:

To improve the management of time, funding, and building facilities effectively to bring them in line with TJHSST's mission and beliefs and future trends of education.

Priority Action Items:

Create and maintain a master calendar for open view and create protocols for maintaining the calendar.
Communicate the budgetary process and decisions to the school community on an annual basis to foster understanding.
Evaluate and upgrade the science and technology laboratories to provide students research experiences with current developments in science and technology.
Create fair academic schedules for faculty (including number of classes taught, team teaching partners, student: teacher ratio, and curriculum team assignments) and communicate scheduling decisions to the faculty in a timely manner.
Secure monetary resources and/or release time for faculty to pursue school-wide or division initiatives.
Develop a strategic plan for obtaining funds to support a new school building.