

## **TARPON SPRINGS HIGH SIP 2013-14 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Tarpon Springs High School has 1410 students in grades 9-12, five administrators, 80 teachers, and 52 staff members. The mission of Tarpon Springs High School is to "Prepare every student to be a productive citizen and provide them the skills necessary to be successful in life".

To accomplish this mission, Tarpon Springs High School has 4 Goals:

- 1) Increase overall school grade FCAT points to 600 or more,
- 2) Increase graduation rate to 92%,
- 3) Increase college readiness combined cells to 150 points
- 4) Reduce the achievement gap for African American students in reading proficiency, math proficiency, and graduation rates by half

Tarpon Springs High School has three Strategic Initiatives for the 2013-14 school year to support progress towards our four goals:

- 1) Increase the level of Rigor and Relevance in each class;
- 2) Increase the use of complex text in each class;
- 3) Set and communicate a purpose for learning in each class each day;

The core instructional strategies included in our action plans are based upon the central tenets of Pinellas County's Common Core Framework of Text, Task, and Instruction. Specific strategies in the text realm include the use of complex text, text dependent questioning, close reading, and the use of Document Based Questioning (DBQ). Specific strategies in the task realm include the use of the Rigor/Relevance Framework, use of Content Based Vocabulary (Marzano), and learning programs such as Read 180, Plugged in to Reading, Achieve 3000, Carnegie Learning for Math, and the 5E model for science instruction. Specific strategies to set and communicate a purpose for learning include the daily use of Essential Questions, Learning Goals, or Learning Targets along with daily class agendas. Specific strategies to address the achievement gap include the use of culturally relevant and diverse reading materials, making learning materials available to all students both at school and at community centers, establishing an effective mentoring program, and developing Individual Graduation Plans for each student in grades 11 and 12.

The professional development efforts are focused on the central tenets of Pinellas County's Common Core Framework of Text, Task, and Instruction. Professional development for text centers on the use of complex text, using text dependent questioning in all subject areas, and the effective use of DBQ's. Professional development for task and instruction centers on continued training in the Rigor/Relevancy Framework and on the evolving principles and practices of Common Core Instruction and Next Generation Assessments.

The parent involvement efforts have historically centered on extracurricular activity support and individual student mentoring. To expand upon the success of our strong community support, processes will be initiated to properly measure and document all volunteer hours. As a strategy to increase volunteer hours which directly benefit classroom instruction and student success, the school is hosting evening meetings featuring parent academies with featured speakers, a more student and teacher centered PTSA, and increased mentoring for specific student needs and concerns.

For more information about Tarpon Spring's School Improvement Plan, please go to our website at [www.tarponweb.org](http://www.tarponweb.org)