

Preliminary Report, Highlights: Lincoln Park Academy, St. Lucie County

A FOCUS ON CORE SUBJECTS: Lincoln Park Academy is a well-disciplined academic magnet, with intensive instruction in the core subjects building the foundation of a sound, quality education. The school has a mission that is well communicated and realized. Parents understand that higher-order academic skills will be the focus throughout the four-year course of study. Parents and teachers are involved in the development of the strategic plan supporting the school's mission. Staff at Lincoln Park Academy conduct forums and have open discussions to secure ongoing feedback for the plan. This plan is linked to state standards with assessment data being considered as the plan is reviewed. The curriculum, the purchase of materials and supplies, and teacher training, all focus where they should be - on student achievement outcomes. Instruction is made relevant through connection to real world careers and concerns. A job fair and career day program also help to make the academic to work transfer more readily understood.

Results: School Grade: 2002 A.

Practices that Promote High Performance:

- A mission and plan that is well communicated, with ongoing feedback about the effectiveness of the plan
- Higher-order academic skills are the focus throughout the four-year course of study
- A job fair and career day program are used to make academic to work transfers

CULTURAL SENSITIVITY: Cultural sensitivity is embedded within each academic discipline and encouraged in various extra-curricular activities. While math is considered "universal", language arts is used to include multicultural enhancement. Respect for every student's contribution is encouraged, as diversity is celebrated throughout the school. Contributions of scholars in each academic field are also viewed through a lens of diversity and emphasized in cultural fair programs. There is an orientation for new 6th grade students and families, providing insight into the culture of Lincoln Park Academy. Student handbooks are provided and a website communicates matters of importance regarding programs. Parents are encouraged to get involved through opportunities to volunteer and become active in the Parent Teacher Organization and the School Improvement Team. The School Advisory Council is active in management, including budget, academic and behavior decisions.

Results: Students Stay Connected: Drop out rate reported as 0.

Practices that Promote High Performance:

- Cultural sensitivity embedded in the curriculum and encouraged through extra-curricular activities
- Diversity celebrated school wide and within each academic discipline
- New parents and students provided an orientation and given insight into the culture of LPA

CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS: Achievement is measured in several ways. Student portfolios are commonly used and students are asked to defend their work through public speaking fairs. Long-term research projects are part of the curriculum, including application of academic concepts to everyday problems. Higher-order thinking skills are monitored through lesson plans and are reviewed by the department chair and administration. Analysis and synthesis go beyond the "right answer" and are part of all content areas, including students assessing their own behavior. Teacher made tests, in addition to FCAT practice tests, are to provide FCAT practice opportunities. School goals reflect longer-range views of achievement, addressing skills necessary for work and higher education. Increases in FCAT performance, IB diplomas and number Bright Futures Scholarship recipients are also seen as important measures of academic achievement.

Results: Recognized by *Newsweek*, and the *Washington Post* as one of the most challenging secondary schools in the nation.

Practices that Promote High Performance:

- Students given an opportunity to talk about their work through speaking fairs
- Curriculum that emphasizes higher-order thinking skills
- Setting short and long term academic achievement goals