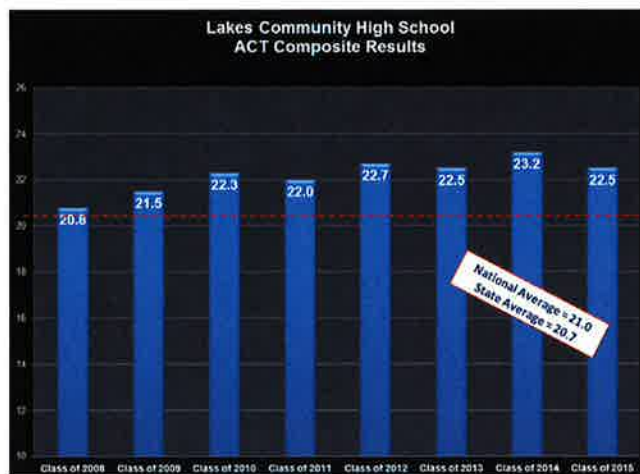


Lakes Community High School School Improvement Plan 2015 Executive Summary

The foundation for Lakes was established when we opened our doors in 2004. A deliberate and consistent effort has been maintained over the years to hold true to those foundational beliefs. These foundational beliefs come down to what we believe, we believe;

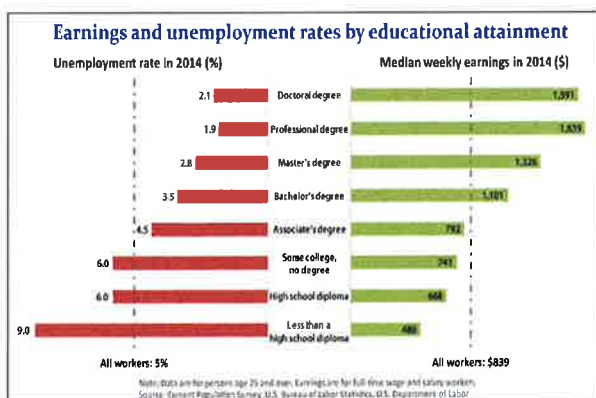
- in our motto of Respect & Courtesy = Pride
- in maintaining relationships by following the Eagle Way
- in having an intervention process in place for our students experiencing difficulties
- in doing what is best for students and their learning
- that every student can grow and learn, it is up to us to inspire them
- in celebrating what it is to Be An Eagle



By following our beliefs, our students have experienced success resulting in many recognitions including; US News Best High Schools list 2015 and Newsweek's Best High Schools list in 2012, 2013 and 2014. We have also had six straight years of a composite ACT average of over 22. The class of 2015 has one National Merit Semi Finalist, 63 AP Scholars, 23 AP Scholars with Honors and 19 AP Scholars with Distinction and 2 National AP Scholars.

Our students will be faced with challenges in the future that we cannot even imagine, and it is up to us to prepare them to overcome these challenges. Charlotte Danielson says it best in her book *Enhancing Professional Practice: A Framework for Teaching* (2007): "It is important for all students to be able to formulate and test hypotheses, to analyze information, and to be able to relate one part of learning to another." This ability to think critically will join content in its level of importance in our teaching and learning.

The students' ability to use the content we teach will be the important thread that will assist them in solving the challenges of the future. If you look at the Future Work Skill chart pictured to the right of this paragraph you will see a direct correlation between the drivers that will define future work and the skills needed to be able to compete for these jobs. To go along with skill development we encourage our students to strive to reach a higher level of education as an education can provide you with a certain level of economic security. The chart to the left from the Bureau of Labor and Statistics bares that fact. This data and research tells us that education is important, but also that we need to be very careful to teach our students not only content, but the skills to use that content in new ways.



5essentials recommendation

Through 20 years of study, the University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago School Research developed five components assessed in the survey critical for school success:

Effective Leaders

Collaborative Teachers

Involved Families

Supportive Environment

Ambitious Instruction

The feedback we receive from the 5essential survey has shown us that our work over the last two years of our current plan and over the last three years has shown Lakes Community High School moving from a school that was organized for improvement to a school that is well organized for improvement. Meaning that our indicators have moved in a positive direction. The feedback from the survey indicates a few areas that we can improve on in the future. The areas that we will work to improve on are;

- Academic Press - consistent rigor in learning
- Teacher influence - having opportunities for teachers to be more involved in the decision making process.
- A shared responsibility for learning from all staff

Our direction



Initiatives that will go with our goals:

Be An Eagle Campaign –Focus on school-wide culture and provide opportunities for student voice.

Inter-Departmental CRIS\$ – Once a semester, departments partner to design individual lessons incorporating Plan, Prepare, Engage, Reflect.

Cum Laude - Continue to promote the Cum Laude program and increase Cum Laude graduates from 2015 to 2016.

Writing/Reading – Use the English department as the lead in establishing school reading and writing experiences.

Global Studies Portfolio – All students enrolled in Global Studies will spend the year creating an electronic portfolio focusing on 21st century skills displaying their personal artifacts demonstrating learning across the curriculum.

Challenges that require our creativity:

- Increase in the number of social-emotional issues with our students.
- Purposeful focus ensuring our curriculum supports learning to meet the needs of ever changing assessments and increase life opportunities.
- We're outgrowing our space; we need more room for students to learn (classroom space, indoor athletic facilities, etc.).
- Support opportunities for student-led learning experiences.
- Maintaining a healthy balance between home and school for both students and faculty while supporting extra-curricular activities and a rigorous course load.
- Having students and teachers be decision makers and participants in the implementation of school programs.
- Meeting students diverse academic needs.

Next steps as we strive for continual growth

We have found ourselves in a position of having attained clear sustainable growth within the current structure of our resources. As we proceed to continue this growth, we will need to investigate working outside the current structures, including our school day, staffing, and curricular offerings.