Creating a Collegiate Culture for Students Using Cambridge International

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The purpose of today’s presentation is to discuss how Leesburg High School strategically partnered with Cambridge International to change the culture of our school.

- A School in Crisis
- Importance of a Vision
- Partnership with Cambridge International
- Collegiate Culture Displayed
Community Circle

Cambridge Schools Conference, Orlando, 23-24 June 2023
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Community Circle

Non-Sequential:

How do you convey BELIEF in students at your school?
What data do you have to support that BELIEF?
A School in Crisis
A school in crisis

Year 1 at Leesburg High School
A school in crisis

**Year 1 @ LHS**

- Population: 1301
- Title I School (over 80% of students qualify for free or reduced lunch)
- Graduation Rate: 66.7%
- Discipline Data - Over 3,000 Referrals Processed
- Lockdowns / Fights
- Student murdered within community
- Community involvement was limited
- Hurricane Irma - Served as a shelter
A school in crisis

Year 1 @ LHS

- Advanced Placement
  - 367 exams offered
  - 84 exams passed
  - 23% pass rate
  - 252 college credits earned
The Importance of a Vision
The importance of a vision

Importance of a Vision

“Forming a vision of what students need in the future and cooperating to achieve that vision are the major responsibilities for education leaders today.”

--Ron Renchler - *Leadership With a Vision*
The importance of a vision

Turn and Talk
What is your school’s mission/vision statement and how are you empowering your staff to pursue it on a daily basis?
The importance of a vision

Leesburg High School’s Vision Statement

“Through our collective Belief, Skill, and Will, each Leesburg High School student will graduate with the skills necessary for success in either a college/university, a career, or the military.”
The importance of a vision

During Year 1 at Leesburg High School

- Became a Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) School
- Received $850,000 State Grant to Revitalize Construction Academy
- Implemented Graduation Tracker for all Seniors and Teachers to view (District funded Graduation Resource Facilitator)
- Award Winning “Swarm of Sound” (Band); Started Dance Academy
- Award Winning Air Force JROTC Program
- Won the FHSAA Boys Basketball State Championship for the second year in a row!
Partnership with Cambridge International
Partnership with Cambridge International

Turn and Talk
Discuss some of your most valuable curriculum, business, or community partners?
What makes your relationship so valuable?
Partnership with Cambridge International

2012-2017

- Served as Assistant/Vice Principal at Oakleaf High School (Clay County, FL)
- Served as Cambridge International Administrator
- 2016-2017: 86% Pass Rate
- 434 exams offered
- 363 exams passed
- 84% pass rate
- 1,232 college credits earned
- 45/45 Class of 2016 earned their Cambridge Diploma
- Exclusively for Highest Achieving Students
Leesburg High School’s Launch

- Began process in October of 2017
- School Visit - January 2018
- Approved - February 2018
- Attended Cambridge Schools Conference - June
- Marketed and welcomed first cohort in August 2018 (61 students)
- Targeted Highest Achieving Middle School Student

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Leesburg High School’s Launch

- Year 1 - IGCSE English Language; IGCSE Global Perspectives; IGCSE Spanish
- Year 2 - AS English Language; AS Biology; AS European History
- Year 3 - AS English Literature; AS United States History; AS Global Perspectives; AS Spanish
- Year 4 - AS General Paper; AS Thinking Skills
Partnership with Cambridge International

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Partnership with Cambridge International

Leesburg High School’s Cambridge Offerings:

- **Math and Sciences**
  - AS Biology; AS Environmental Science; AS Psychology
- **Languages**
  - AS English Language; AS Spanish Language; A English Language
- **Arts and Humanities**
  - AS English Literature; AS U.S. History; AS European History; AS Art and Design
- **Interdisciplinary and Skills Based Studies**
  - AS General Paper; AS Thinking Skills
- **AS Global Perspectives**
### Partnership with Cambridge International

#### Exclusive vs. Inclusive

- LHS' Cambridge International Academy began only for the highest achieving students
  - However, the demographics of our Cambridge International Academy did not match the demographics for our school.

- **2020-2021:** Assigned ALL Seniors to AS General Paper (52% pass rate for non-cohorted students)

- **2022-2023:** Assigned ALL Seniors to AS General Paper (55% pass rate for non-cohorted students)

- **2022-2023:** Assigned ALL Juniors and Seniors to AS General Paper
Collegiate Culture Displayed
Turn and Talk

- What is your school / leadership team doing to improve the school’s culture for students?
Collegiate culture displayed

What is your leadership team doing to improve the school’s culture for students?

- Cambridge College Trips
- 180 Days of Joy - Daily celebration of staff and students through social media
- LHS Teacher Incentive Programme
- S.T.I.N.G. Breakfast
- INVEST in Success!
Collegiate culture displayed

Cambridge AICE College Tour

**Schedule**

"All students taking at least one Cambridge AICE course is eligible to select one college tour"**

- **Senior Cohort Trip (Georgia)** - Sept. ’23 - Class of 2024
  - Georgia Tech University
  - Georgia State University
  - Emory University
  - University of Georgia
  - Georgia Southern University

- **University of Florida** - Oct. ’23 - Class of 2024
- **Florida St. University** - Nov. ’23 - Class of 2024
- **Univ. of South Florida** - Dec. ’23 - Class of 2025
- **Univ. of North Florida** - Jan. ’24 - Class of 2026

- **Univ. of Central Florida** - Feb. ’24 - Class of 2027
- **Florida Atlantic Univ.** - Mar. ’24 - Class of 2025
- **Florida Gulf Coast Univ.** - Apr. ’24 - Class of 2026

#ForTheFAMILY **Specific Dates and Times will be released ASAP.**
Collegiate culture displayed

Year 6 @ LHS

- Cambridge International
  - 716 exams offered
  - 424 exams passed
  - 59% pass rate
  - 1,272 college credits earned
  - 404% increase in college credits earned from 2017-2018
Collegiate culture displayed

Five Years Later at Since Implementing Cambridge International at Leesburg High School:

- Population: 1625 (2022-2023) ; Projected 1740 (2023-2024)

- Increased Graduation Rate from 66.7% in 2016-2017 to 86% during the 2021-2022 school year (First time in school history to have three straight years of 80% or higher Graduation Rate)

- 404% increase in college credits earned from 2017-2018 (252) to 2021-2022 school year (1,272) through Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE)

- 42/61 students from the original cohort completed the Cambridge International program and earned Lake County School’s first Cambridge Diploma

- Community Partnership - Raised over $1 million over the last five years through our Jacket Cares Initiative

- Over 300 students enrolled in Construction Academy at LHS; completed 4th Habitat for Humanity house and will begin our 5th build in August

- 2022-2023 School Year - Processed under 400 disciplinary referrals by implementing Restorative Practices
Thank you
Any questions?
Your feedback

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