



St. Petersburg Collegiate High School

A Charter School at St. Petersburg College

**Governing Board Meeting
SPC Bay Pines STEM Center
October 17, 2017**

Agenda

1. St. Petersburg Collegiate High School Audit (*approval requested*)
2. SPC Expansion of Acceleration Options

SPC Expansion of Accelerated Programs

Phase I: Replication of St. Petersburg Collegiate High School in North Pinellas County

Phase II: Exploring Accelerated Options for Middle School Students





Phase I: SPCHS Replication North Pinellas

- Complete and submit letter of intent to Pinellas County School Board (PCSB)
- Collaborate with Clearwater and Tarpon Springs campuses to determine available facilities
 - Office area
 - Five classrooms
 - One large room or two classrooms for academic resource lab and student seminars
 - One commons area
 - Secure storage for records and textbooks
- Write and submit Charter School Application to PCSB by Feb. 1, 2018, for August 2019 opening



Phase I: SPCHS Replication North Pinellas

- Upon approval from the Pinellas County School Board:
 - **March - April 2018:** Determine facility preparation
 - **Nov. 2018 – Jan. 2019:** Market program to students and families
 - **Feb - March 2019:** Application deadline and applicant acceptance for North SPCHS
 - **Jan. - April 2019:** Collaborate with Human Resources to post positions and hire personnel
 - **May - July 2019:** Utilize current SPCHS reserves to order required materials
 - **May - July 2019:** Complete final facility preparations
 - **August 2019:** Open SPCHS North Pinellas



Phase II: Explore Middle School Options

- Explore various middle school acceleration options that lead to an AA degree: Spring 2020
- Visit Howard University and other innovative programs
- Collaborate with stakeholders to determine needs
- Determine costs and facility needs for each proposed option
- Present options to SPC Leadership for review



Questions



St. Petersburg College (SPC) is requesting approval to replicate St. Petersburg Collegiate High School in Northern Pinellas County. St. Petersburg Collegiate High School (SPCHS) opened in August 2004 to offer serious-minded, mature students the opportunity to accelerate their education. SPCHS students are enticed by the unique opportunities available by being on a college campus with the support provided by the SPCHS staff. SPCHS provides a distinctive educational experience with all the challenging academic rigor of college, balanced with an appropriate social environment that includes traditional high school events and activities.

The mission, vision, and core values create the culture of SPCHS. Our mission states, "Students will simultaneously earn a high school diploma, an Associate in Arts degree, and qualify for a Bright Futures scholarship;" our vision states, "We cultivate motivated learners, develop critical thinkers, and empower visionary leaders;" and our core values are, "Students First, Collaborative Learning, Continual Improvement, Integrity, Mutual Respect, and Family/Community Environment." These aspirations are the foundation for all we do at SPCHS. The vision, mission, and core values are internalized and are used, with data, to inform decisions.

For several years, SPCHS has had far more applicants than openings. For the 2017-18 school year, over 100 sophomores are still on the waitlist. Furthermore, applicants who live in North Pinellas County often decline the invitation to attend SPCHS due to the far distance from their residence. Replicating our school in North Pinellas would allow these students the opportunity to attend this distinctive and highly successful school.

SPCHS offers a unique opportunity for students to gain the required life and academic skills necessary for them to achieve their dreams. SPCHS sophomores enjoy a rigorous and challenging curriculum that pushes them to achieve at high levels. Students are required to think, work as members of a team, and apply knowledge to solve problems in a variety of situations. Students develop critical reading, writing and research skills, and they learn to use technology effectively for a variety of tasks, including presentations and projects. Furthermore, in Chemistry, students enjoy using the SPC lab where they analyze data to make predictions and demonstrate learning. Additionally, college readiness skills are infused into the sophomore and junior years to further strengthen students' academic foundation. Through continual analysis of student data, SPCHS has created a strong sophomore curriculum where individualized teaching to remediate gaps is provided empowering students to excel.

Juniors and seniors at SPCHS are fully dual enrolled in all college courses with regular college students on the college campus, thus benefiting from an exceptional academic experience but with all of the support and social events that make the high school years productive and enjoyable. Students follow the St. Petersburg College schedule attending classes Monday through Thursday and usually take six college courses each term. Students are expertly guided by the SPCHS guidance counselor and college advisor to ensure they meet the requirements for high school, the Associate in Arts degree, and take prerequisites aligned tot their major. The SPCHS high school graduation rate is consistently 100% and the Associate in Arts degree graduation rate has been between 94-100% for the past six years. There is no cost to attend.

The SPCHS Leadership Program was created to address the students' need for guided leadership skills development, in alignment with the school's vision of "empowering visionary leaders." In sophomore year, we focus on building foundational leadership skills. In junior year, we employ the services of a nationally recognized etiquette coach who teaches students business etiquette, table manners, social media and networking skills, and dressing for success. Juniors begin the

formation of their e-portfolio and are encouraged to seek leadership roles. Seniors take a college leadership course, are encouraged to seek significant leadership roles, and are required to showcase their e-portfolio to parents and community members at the Senior Capstone Event.

SPCHS established a Learning Lab that offers academic and career support for students to ensure all students have the just-in-time support necessary to succeed. The Learning Lab provides students access to course and career guidance. SPCHS instructors offer tutoring there in addition to that offered before and after school. To create structure as juniors and seniors transition to all college courses, we require students to spend at least 2 ½ hours per week studying in the Learning Lab, thereby providing support as they work on class assignments.

Students are introduced to the positive culture of SPCHS during orientation, where they participate in team building activities, learn expectations, write their mission statement, establish goals, and discover resources and support to empower them to excel. The dedicated SPCHS staff nurtures a culture of learning by empowering students to take responsibility for their education and by serving as coaches and mentors. Students quickly discover that SPCHS staff care about them as individuals, which builds trust and removes barriers. This “family-like” culture encourages students to collaborate and ask for help when needed. Students thrive in a culture of collaboration and respect. They encourage each other to meet the mission and vision while realizing their goals. To spur continual success, student and staff recognition occurs informally on a regular basis and formally during our awards programs and at graduation.

Guidance counseling, academic advising, weekly seminars, and the numerous social events offered by SPCHS and SPC foster students’ academic, social, and emotional growth. Furthermore, SPCHS offers many of the social events one would expect at high school, such as prom and a fall dance. Students also enjoy numerous college events for free as SPC students. SPCHS values community and parent involvement. Our active Parent, Teacher, and Student Association (PTSA), provides input and helps plan social events for students. The School Advisory Council (SAC), comprised of parents, students, staff, and community members, provides feedback and offers suggestions for continual improvement.

Other partnerships include Rotary which sponsors our Interact Club and supports collaborative community service projects. Another outstanding partner is Junior Achievement (JA). JA empowers SPCHS students to facilitate a financial literacy program for elementary-aged children and provides leadership training for juniors. This year, JA presented SPCHS with their 2017 Outstanding Achievement Award for our students’ leadership and service for the past ten years. Furthermore, SPCHS received the Five Star Community Involvement Award for 2015 and 2016.

As a result of a continual focus on student achievement, St. Petersburg Collegiate High School has been recognized as a National Blue Ribbon Exemplary High Performing School for 2017 by U. S. Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos. Newsweek ranked SPCHS 2nd in Florida, 55th nationally, and 53rd nationally for helping students of poverty excel in 2016. In the 2017 Niche Rankings SPCHS was #3 for Best Public High School in Tampa Bay and #7 charter school in the state. Furthermore, SPCHS has received U.S. News and World Report’s bronze level award for the past five years and has been awarded an “A” grade from the State of Florida each year since opening in 2004. Finally, as a High Performing Charter school since 2011, and excellent high school and graduation rates, SPC/SPCHS has demonstrated our team’s capacity to successfully replicate and operate a high-quality school in North Pinellas County.