

Travis Education Center

A Model Continuation High School

Model Continuation High School Visiting Committee Findings November 2016

1. TEC doesn't just educate and make positive citizens...they make world changers! Students openly communicate how their lives have been transformed by their experiences at TEC. They represent greatness in every sense of the word. After having the TEC experience, students truly believe that they are unstoppable!
2. Anyone who walks onto the TEC campus understands the moral imperative and empowering message being lived out to students, parents and TEC stakeholders. "What we're doing here is important! You as an individual are important! We will not let you fail!"
3. The vision, mission and philosophy of TEC include the following: A growth mindset; grow where you are; grow in character, motivation and academics; be positive; be flexible and not rigid; keep trying; believe that you can change; and develop an awareness that you may not be where you want to be, but be mindful that you are growing.
4. TEC is committed to building students of character. This is evidenced by the master schedule (i.e. guidance cohorts), student of the month, character capes, etc.
5. TEC is a school of choice for the community. Parents, students and stakeholders take exemplary pride in its programs, curriculum, pedagogy, character education and leadership.
6. TEC's counselor acts as a guidance counselor and a behavioral interventionist. She is to be commended for structuring academic success via the quarterly credit checks and creating/appropriating the "Academic Probation status intervention" which serves as a proactive, communicable and motivational intervention—not as a punitive consequence.
7. TEC is to be commended for the significant credit accrual opportunities wherein students can advance at their own speed—relative to their own personal and academic goals.
8. TEC parents are to be commended for their passionate involvement and advocacy of the school. The parents are unanimous in believing, knowing and experiencing that TEC is a "family", that all students can be successful, that the TEC community models excellence in academics and behavior and that they won't accept failure. TEC parents believe that the TEC staff personally and passionately care about their students—and this begins at the initial interview, continues onto the graduation stage and is perpetuated throughout their students' post high school years. The power words parents use to describe TECs influence upon their children are as follows: Successful, excellence, interactive, accommodating, motivational, healthy, inspirational and accountable. TEC parents believe that teacher dedication to students and learning is unlike any other school.
9. Every certificated staff member is a character coach at TEC. The staff and students have a common language and they all use it on a day in, day out, basis.
10. The TEC instructional staff and lessons make connection to real world challenges.
11. The TEC teachers have positive presuppositions about students and believe that there is a sense of positive interdependence, wherein the staff needs the students and the students need the staff.



Teachers:

Douglas Ivie
Rowena Kendall
Sean Murphy
Andrew San Juan
Marti Stralla

Instructional Asst.

Latriece Turner

Counselor: Janelle Preston

Secretary: Janie Tepley

Principal

Allyson Rude Azevedo

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12. The TEC graduation ceremony is a powerful representation of meaningful connectedness and celebration of accomplished growth goals. The giving of the teddy bears is symbolic of powerful significance, belonging, connectedness and maturation.

13. In the 2012-2013 school year, TEC had a 73% graduation rate, but that has changed. For the past two school years, TEC has had a 100% graduation rate.

14. The District and TEC have a partnership and working relationship like none other. The District believes that the philosophy of TEC should be the philosophy of every school in the District—a philosophy where the student comes first, where the student is respected at the highest levels, where engagement and connectedness is found in and out of the classroom and excellence is evidenced by staff appropriating rigorous instruction that empowers all students to learn. "This is a fabulous place for kids!" is the statement that District administration and Board members believe and communicate with every fiber of their being.

15. TEC has a great history and heritage of caring for students.

16. The principal is a transformational and creative leader who has empowered programs and policies to assure TEC is a school strong in cognitive, meta-cognitive and self-system practices. She has structured TEC to be a safe place and a school with excellence in curriculum, instructional design, delivery and engagement. She understands, at the highest level, what is needed to get to students' hearts. She listens to students, parents, staff and stakeholders has so empowered and defined the narrative within the District for others to see TEC as a logical option for education—not as a negative consequence for credit deficiencies.

17. The TEC facility is beautiful—no graffiti on property, no trash, evident of student learning and student success. The facility (beautiful in design and appearance) is a strong representation of the District's care and concern for alternative education students.

18. There are two student-leadership teams that need to be commended for personifying being TEC strong. First, the TEC Ambassadors are a student-leadership team that desire to maintain a positive school climate and culture wherein they support new students, communicate and explain school rules, connect students to others and resources, help with school sponsored activities and events and utilize survey evaluations in order to include all students and their respective needs. Secondly, the TEC Service Learning leadership team is a powerful group of students that act and serve with the mission of integrating others, bringing togetherness, honoring the school and trying to make their school shine. They help facilitate awards ceremonies, multi-cultural day, Spirit week, in-service opportunities in the community, etc.

19. The TEC classroom teachers and instructional program is universal in their use of learning goals (posted and communicated), technology (smart boards, doc cameras, technology devices, etc.), Kagan seating arrangements, academic language instruction and subject matter relevance. Their instructional approach is unique, playing to the strengths of the students and staff.

20. Collaboration is at the heart of all that is done at TEC. It is a bottom up, and not top down paradigm, wherein all voices are heard.

21. It is evident that two essential questions are at the core of decision making at TEC and they can be summarized by the following: "Is it good for kids and how do we create a culture that constantly raises up its own?"



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