



**ACS WASC/CDE Visiting Committee  
Final Presentation  
for  
America's Finest Charter School**

## Focus on Learning asks...

- **How do you know that all students are achieving based on our schoolwide student goals and academic standards?**
- **Is the school doing everything possible to support high achievement for all its students?**



## Areas to Celebrate

- The degree of “community” among staff and students.
- A strong curriculum program.
- The low ratio of adults to students.
- The community support for the school’s families.

## Areas for Focus

- Improve school campus safety
- Improve communication between administration and teachers
- Better define expectations and roles on campus
- Improve parental involvement





## Areas to Celebrate

- The school provides a researched based CCSS curriculum.
- There is congruence between the actual concepts and skills taught, the schoolwide learner outcomes, and the expectations for our students.
- There is integration and alignment among academic and career technical disciplines at the high school.
- The school engages with community partners and resources, articulates regularly with feeder schools, local colleges and universities, and technical schools.
- All students are able to make appropriate choices and pursue a full range of educational options.

## Areas for Focus

- The staff of the school and the parents need to collaborate more in developing and monitoring the student's personal learning plan.
- Strengthen the integration and alignment among academic and career technical disciplines at the middle school level.
- Increase the choices and pursue a full range of realistic college and career internships for all high school juniors and seniors.
- Implementing strategies and programs to facilitate transitions to college, career, and other postsecondary high school options and regularly evaluates their effectiveness.
- Consistent vertical alignment and usage of the adopted curriculum throughout the school's teachers.

# Learning and Teaching



## Areas to Celebrate

- Staff, as a whole at AFCS, go above and beyond in creating equitable lesson plans with supplied inquiry based curriculum.
- Teachers work to develop safe-learning environments.
- School provides support for pull-out and push-in services to help assist students meet their goals.
- Variety of training for staff (including tech-tools to combat pandemic-age pedagogy, trauma-informed education, resource usage on campus, etc.)

## Areas for Focus

- Use of a support system to better help students with understanding of learning expectations, strategies for organized success, and create better exposure to advanced schooling.
- Use SMART goal setting for student self-regulation and individualized learning plans for the purpose of helping students' learning experience and understand their personal growth goals.
- Develop more Project-Based Learning experiences for students to foster enhanced applied critical and creative thinking skills.
- Implement enrichment experiences such as Advanced Placement and GATE for additional opportunity to further student achievement.



## Areas to Celebrate

- Use of consistent benchmark assessments and curriculum across grade levels that coincides with meaningful discussions of data at PLC and staff meetings.
- Student opportunities for intervention, academic support, and language support such as tutoring, SIPPS, designated ELD instruction, pull-out interventions and push-in group services.
- Testing modifications and accommodations are used well to support ELL students and students with IEPs.

## Areas for Focus

- Using assessment data to better refine instructional practices through a formalized process in PLC time.
- Add more meaningful opportunities to teach students and families to better understand assessment student ELPAC and SBAC assessment data.
- Implement HS level benchmarking assessments to better track HS student growth during the year.
- Implement time for students to reflect on their learning experiences in comparison with the SLOs.

# School Culture and Support for Student Personal, Social-Emotional, and Academic Growth

## Areas to Celebrate

- The school views the classrooms as a community. Staff have a priority to make sure students feel “at home” and are safe in the classroom.
- Targeted after-school and Saturday-School tutoring sessions to support students who are receiving specialized accommodations or are in need of extra support based on benchmarking assessment data or formative and summative assessments.
- Enrichment opportunities for students via the X period, elective wheel, and the ASES program.
- AFCS has their own school buses which is an advantage over other schools in the area by being able to offer more educational field trips for all learners.
- AFCS partners with community groups to help students and families with goods and services.

## Areas for Focus

- Additional staff training for Trauma Informed Practices to better inform staff how to address behavioral issues in class.
- Increased administrative-lead support and professional development for tier-2 level intervention students.
- Provide additional training for staff supporting learning for English Language Learners.
- Implement resource classes and extended tutoring opportunities for students.
- Implement clubs or club-like activities at the K-8 site to encourage students to develop ownership of interest-based ideas, planning skills, and activity implementation.

# Celebrate Schoolwide Strengths

*The visiting committee identified the following areas of strengths:*

- *The community partnerships that support the learning and school culture environment*
- *The engineering pathway via PLTW at the high school level*
- *The designation of instructional aides or classroom aides at the K-8 campus*

*These areas are critical for student development, academic and personal success as they strive, as AFCS puts it, “to pursue their American Dream”.*





## The self-study identified and work should continue on:

### Areas for Focus

- Design and implement an English Language Learner program that will help students make growth more quickly.
- Design and implement a Reading and Math Intervention program that supports improved student achievement needs.
- Design and implement an organized, intentional plan to include educational partners on the journey of their students.

## As you plan and implement your work, include:

- Implement safeguards to assure daily standards-based, grade-level, rigorous bell-to-bell instruction.
- Ensure alignment of professional development needs of teachers and instructional aides to directly match up with specific identified learning needs of students.
- Ensure a consistent use of School-wide Learner Objectives in classrooms.

## Making It Happen: Ongoing Work

- Design and implement an English Language Learner program that will help students make more growth more quickly.
- Design and implement a Reading and Math Intervention program that supports improved student achievement needs.
- Design and implement an organized, intentional plan to include educational partners on the journey of their students.





**Visualize what will be different for students....**

- One year from now?**
- Two years from now?**
- Three years from now?**