

***NOTE- You may have received a portion of this letter, as it pertains to your child's specific educational recommendation. The full letter is posted here for full transparency.***

April 3, 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

TCHS is in full swing planning for the 2024-2025 school year. Our counseling team has wrapped up individual course registration meetings with students and a master plan has begun to take shape.

More recently, the State of Florida has encouraged high schools to focus on acceleration options for students. Acceleration is a term used to incorporate the many programs and test options that high school students can utilize to become college and/or career ready. Beginning with the class of 2025, TCHS is requiring every senior to have an acceleration option on their 2024-2025 schedule if they haven't already met this requirement. *(Note, if your child is not a rising senior and you received this letter, your child is preemptively being accelerated).* This can be accomplished by taking and passing a course and/or exam for any one of the following:

- Advanced Placement (AP)
- Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE)
- Dual Enrollment (DE)
- Industry certification

Our scheduling team recently cross-checked student's most recent FAST scores with report card grades. This allowed us to determine and, in most cases, pre-schedule an appropriate acceleration course which can now be seen in Home Access Center (HAC). However, we value your input when designing an appropriate academic schedule that meets both your child's abilities as well as needs. Please talk with your child and consider the following scheduling factors.

- Academic versus life balance
- On-line /virtual class commitments
- Extra-curricular and work obligations
- Academic work habits
- Post secondary school plans

**College Ready Focus: (Can opt-out)**

Your child has been placed into a college level English course for the 2024-2025 school year. Depending upon their F.A.S.T. Reading score as well as previous English course/grade, they have been placed into either AP English Literature or AS level English General Paper.

Rising seniors with a level 5 F.A.S.T. score who were not already scheduled for a Dual Enrollment English course have been moved into AP English Literature instead of English 4 Honors.

Rising seniors with a level 4 F.A.S.T. score who were scheduled for English 4 Honors, have been moved to AS level English General Paper, a college level writing course. This course is overseen by The University of Cambridge and will serve as an English credit towards a high school diploma. In addition, college

credit can be awarded if your child passes the corresponding standardized exam, which historically has a high pass rate.

If your rising sophomore earned a level 5 on the F.A.S.T. reading assessment, this course has been added in place of English 2 honors. This placement will position your child to take three consecutive years of an accelerated English course: AICE English General Paper, AP English Language or Dual Enrollment and AP English Literature or Dual Enrollment.

### **DE Ready Focus: (Must opt-in)**

Your child has been identified as a good candidate for a St. Johns River State College (SJRS) Dual Enrollment elective course(s). TCHS will offer the following semester courses on campus next school year; SLS 1301 (Life and Career Development) and FIN 1100 (Personal Finance). Dual Enrollment students must have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher and have a standardized test score on record. (Recognized test scores include: PSAT, SAT, ACT or PERT). The following steps MUST be completed before a SJRS course can be added to your child's schedule.

#### **Step 1:**

Apply to St. Johns River State College (SJRS). The non-binding application and required orientation course can be accessed at: <https://www.sjrstate.edu/dual-students> Upon completion of the application, a SJRS student number ('X' number) will be auto assigned.

#### **Step 2:**

Complete a [participation form](#), which requests an 'X' number. Submit the participation form to Ms. Nicole Ricketts-Helsel in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor guidance office. On the backside of the form, please indicate which previously scheduled elective should be replaced with SLS 1301/FIN 1100.

### **Career Ready Focus: (Can opt-out)**

Your child has been identified as a good fit for a course that corresponds to an industry certification exam. Traditionally, this involves being part of an Academy Program, but TCHS has added a new course to allow interested students to advance their job-related marketing skills, apart from any academy.

The course, Sports, Recreation and Entertainment Essentials will explore the principles of marketing as they relate to each of the titled industries. At the conclusion of the course, students will have an opportunity to take the aligned Social Media Strategist industry certification exam. A passing score of at least 69% is needed to pass and demonstrate competencies in the tested areas. Successful completion of this course will also satisfy the performing fine arts graduation requirement.

#### **Conclusion for all:**

A detailed power point presentation also accompanies this letter. It is recommended you review the information to make an informed decision regarding your child's schedule. Should you feel that the school's recommendation is not a fit for your child, simply complete the attached district opt-out form. Your child can return it to the main office for a schedule change before the last day of school, which is

Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup>. Schedule changes will be processed as they are received, and it should be noted *that each schedule change impacts available seats.*

Given the depth of this information, we want to assure you that any assistant principal or school counselor is available to answer your questions or concerns. Don't hesitate to reach out.

As always, thank you for your continued support of Toco Creek High School.

Sincerely,

Toco Creek High School Administration