

School's Purpose

Provide the school's purpose statement and ancillary content such as mission, vision, values, and/or beliefs. Describe how the school embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students.

The purpose of FSWC - Lee is to create an independent learner from each student by providing a quality academic experience for high school students seeking the challenge of high academic standards, rigorous curricula, and college-level study at a high school which focuses on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The four-year curriculum provides the opportunity for students to complete a high school diploma and an associate degree simultaneously.

Mission

Florida SouthWestern Collegiate High School (FSWC) is a publicly-funded early college high school committed to educational innovation and academic excellence as it prepares students to become critical thinkers and independent learners. Our mission is to provide students with an opportunity to participate in a highly relevant and applicable educational experiences through hands-on and interdisciplinary teaching and learning. Teachers, staff, and the extended school community are dedicated to making the maximum positive impact on each and every student daily, and to continually develop the important, real-world skills of critical thinking, collaboration, and communication.

Vision

Florida SouthWestern Collegiate High School (FSWC) will distinguish itself as an innovative, academically inspiring, and student-centered secondary school providing every opportunity to help students become independent learners who will, in turn, become global citizens capable of using critical thinking and problem-solving skills in relevant, “real world” areas.

Values

The mission of FSWC - Lee was formed with the following values in mind:

Critical Thinking: Developed by presenting students with real-world examples/ problems and challenging them to synthesize knowledge from multiple sources to develop solutions and/or opinions.

Communication: Manifested largely through in-class discussion and cooperative group work, along with additional specially planned activities/presentations.

Collaboration: Evidenced in each course through group challenges, lab exercises, discussions, and applied problem solving.

All core courses at FSWC - Lee are taught at the honors level. Because the purpose of our school is to prepare students to enter college after just two years of high school classes, we offer a rigorous curriculum, and in our teachings, encourage the students to develop the habits and skills necessary to become successful college students.

Because our school is focused on creating independent students, we begin developing necessary skills and reinforcing positive habits from day one of freshmen year. The freshmen team of faculty members are committed to developing organizational skills by teaching and implementing various research-proven methods and practices during the first semester. This allows students coming from a variety of backgrounds to all have the opportunity to begin with a strong foundation in the basic skills necessary to be successful in any school.

By the sophomore year, the freshman have developed a good foundation of skills and knowledge that will help them succeed at the slightly more rigorous course load of 10th grade and the sophomore experience can now turn them into global students who can become successful at any college or university they choose.

We also begin development of critical thinking, collaboration, and communication skills at this time through numerous interdisciplinary and hands-on activities both academic and non-academic in origin. Teachers build their curricula around the central idea of creating an environment where students can maximize their opportunities to use the three skills in connection with real-world scenarios. This adds value to the instruction and allows students to become more global thinkers.

In order to monitor students as they work towards being eligible to dual enroll, we employ a guidance counselor who routinely checks students' progress and quickly intervenes by scheduling one-on-one conferences with the students and parent-teacher conferences if needed.

One of the benefits of a small school is having the flexibility to be able to implement new programs and curricula that would be beneficial in adhering to the school's purpose. FSWC- Lee has executed several strategies to improve student performance and continue to offer a meaningful educational experience for our students. In order to hold students to high educational standards, curriculum changes have been made, such as adding a dedicated Advisory time, during which students will have opportunities to gain important study and organizational skills, as well as work on current projects and track and reflect on student progress.

Another benefit of a small school is the close-knit community that forms. Most of the teachers, the principal, and the guidance counselor know each student by name. The teachers celebrate the students' achievements and directly discuss with them ways to improve their areas of concern. We have cultivated a trusting environment with high expectations through these interactions, and the students know that their teachers care about them.