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The calls for change in public education are legion and research continuously accumulates, almost to the point of cliché, presenting data of weaknesses and proclaiming the need for innovation in pedagogy and a rethinking of how teaching and learning are structured. The State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota has responded by successfully establishing the State College of Florida Collegiate School, an innovative model that changes the educational landscape locally and that has national and international application.

The SCFCS mission is to nurture motivation and ensure student success within a seamless progression from middle grades through college. This mission will be accomplished by demanding and rewarding innovative teaching and creative leadership to establish a system of customized, modular, student-centered education, permeated by technology, that is applicable to the learning styles, abilities, and learning pace of individual students.

The following tenets guide the operation of the State College of Florida Collegiate School:

- Pursue innovation in teaching and learning in the best interests of student success
- Engage in continuous assessment toward measurement of success and the basis for positive change
- Partner with other schools and institutions locally, nationally and internationally to advance the mission, including establishing consortia to share curricula (e-courses) and other instructional resources (including teachers); establish student-to-student connections; and seek external funding
- Instill a “going to college culture” during the middle and high school years focusing recruitment on 1st generation students
- Provide a seamless progression from middle school to high school to college by reducing social, cultural and academic barriers during these transition years
- Facilitate the desire to learn and reduce the boredom factor by using student-friendly technology to teach 21st century skills
- Increase the rigor and relevance of curriculum through the power of the college campus site by
  - o Expanding the vision and relevance of completing a college degree for higher- wage jobs
  - o Providing the opportunity for students to graduate from high school and simultaneously complete 60 college credits and a transferable college associate’s degree
  - o Providing student cultural enrichment through involvement in college theater and art experiences
  - o Increasing proficiency and preparation for college level general education courses, with emphasis on math, science, English and reading
  - o Enhancing the 6-12 curricula by addressing issues such as globalization, sustainability, entrepreneurship, international relations and citizenship.
- Provide academic advisement that fosters college readiness and student success in college
- Provide a supportive environment by building relationships in the transition years for students who otherwise may become discouraged and distracted from higher education goals by
  - o Creating an identity among the middle school students with the requirement of a uniform dress code and the use of student picture ID’s
  - o Creating a unified school learning environment within the college by establishing a home base for all charter school students.
- Increase family engagement in the education of middle/high school students through effective communication and relevant activities that encourage parent participation
- Educate the community about the benefits of postsecondary education and the relevance of starting early for student success