

TAYLOR COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Campbellsville, KY

Taylor County High School

Grades 9-12

861 Students

50.5 Certified Staff

Rural Setting

Socioeconomic:

46.2% free lunch

9.4% reduced lunch

Ethnicity:

1.9% African American

.7% Asian

1.5% Hispanic

95.2% White

\$8,034 per student spending



*Preparing Every Student to be
College or Career Ready*

Innovation Snapshot

Individual Student Success

Taylor County High School will continue to grow their performance based system through transforming the high school to a college-like campus. The school will become a new high school here rigorous academics meet real-world career readiness.

Key Elements



kid-FRIENDLY Supports

- G.R.I.T.
- FRSYC Funds
- Personalized Learning Symposium
- Community of Learners
- Community of Practice



TAYLOR COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Taylor County High School Innovation Snapshot

January 2015

What makes Taylor County High School special is that we focus on the success of the individual student. Our goal is for every student to be prepared for success in post-secondary careers and/or college. In order to achieve this goal, we must be informed, creative, data-driven, and compassionate. We must be willing to work as a team and involve all stakeholders in removing barriers to college and career readiness. Taylor County High School operates on the premise that innovation is a necessity to meet the needs of 21st century students.

THE FOCUS AT TCHS:

- Rigorous academics that prepare our students for college and post-secondary training
- Strong Career Technical programs that provide practical learning experiences for our students
- Individualized Learning Plans that give students ownership in their education
- Professional Learning Communities that focus on data, student work, and research-based and innovative instructional strategies
- Innovative use of Technology
- Project-based Learning and Student-based Enterprises
- Acceleration and self-paced learning that support performance-based learning.
- Real-world experiences and applications
- Student and teachers leadership opportunities

Our Innovations in Progress:

TECHNOLOGY for ALL STUDENTS: This year our district provided every student and teacher with a Lenovo Yoga (a laptop-tablet hybrid). Every teacher was also provided with the LAN School management system that allows them to be creative in how they manage student use of technology and assess student mastery of standards. Our teachers and students also have access to educational programs such as Reading Plus, Study Island, MathXL, and Odysseyware that are designed to individualize student learning.

INDIVIDUALIZED SCHEDULING; We are in the 3rd year of individualizing our scheduling process that includes an emphasis on ILPs, career majors, student choice, rigor, and college/career readiness counseling. This year we have added an early bird scheduling week where parents can come in with their students and walk through the entire scheduling process with their student. The curriculum guide has gone virtual so that everyone has easy access to our course offerings. Students update their individual learning plans on careercruising, talk multiple times with their advisors and with the scheduling team, complete surveys on surveymonkey where students pre-select what courses they are interested in taking next year, and schedule individually with a member of the scheduling team. We base our course offerings and our master schedule on what students say they need and want to take.

NEW ALLIED HEALTH PATHWAYS: Our district and school admin team have worked for two years to start a strong healthcare career program at TCHS. Healthcare is a thriving industry in our

TAYLOR COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

community. Three years ago TCHS only offered 2 Anatomy courses neither of which led to a career pathway or industry certification. This year we have 2 certified career technical teachers in allied health. We offer 3 medical terminology courses, 3 emergency procedure courses, 2 principles of health courses, and 1 medical nursing course (SRNA). Students can also apply for kidFRIENDly grant funded scholarships to help with the cost of industry certifications

CARDINAL ACADEMY: This past year we piloted a program we call the Cardinal Academy whose mission is to provide a program for highly motivated college or career-oriented high school students who have demonstrated interests in pursuing advanced courses in a non-traditional school setting. One purpose is to eliminate traditional educational barriers which limit students' success and learning. This mode of education encourages students to become self-disciplined, to develop their reasoning ability, and become independent learners, leaders, and citizens. Students are encouraged to explore their interests and skills beyond the classroom and our Cardinal Academy mentors provide support to make these experiences happen.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS: This year our CCRC has provided a wide variety of college and career related activities for our students. Our students have visited college campuses around the state and businesses and industries in our community. Our CCRC has worked closely with local universities and other stakeholders to educate our students and parents and to provide the support necessary for our students to be college and career ready.

STUDENT-BASED ENTERPRISES: TCHS continues to improve upon its top-notch Career Tech offerings and its student-based enterprises that provide real-world learning experiences for our students. We currently offer 9 student-based enterprises where our students actively participate in running businesses that support our school and community. This year 2 of our teachers are teaching career exploration classes to our 8th graders, so that next year as freshmen they will be better able to select a career pathway suited to their skills and interests.

Next Steps for TCHS:

The next 3 years will bring many changes to the Taylor County School District as we build two new state-of-the-art schools. This will provide our district even more incentive to be innovative in how we educate our students.

- 1) **College-like campus:** By 2017, our students will be in a new high school that will be more like a community- technical college setting where rigorous academics meets real-world career readiness than a traditional high school. As you enter the school, you will see a state-of-the-art media center, store fronts for our student-based enterprises, and the latest in technology. (Our new primary school will connect the middle school and elementary school for a true performance-based campus where students can more easily be accelerated based on their skills and not be held back because of their chronological age.)
- 2) **InformationTechnology Pathways:** Based on the needs and interests of our students, we know that we are lacking in the area of information technology. Our goal is by 2017 to have hired a CTE certified technology teacher who has access to the latest technologies in order to provide 2 different pathways to our students: computer programming and information support services.
- 3) **Community Partnerships :** By 2017, our goal is to have created solid partnerships with local businesses, industries, and post-secondary institutions. One partnership we are working on for our

TAYLOR COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

new school is the Campbellsville University Early College Center. Our vision is to broaden the opportunities our performance-based students have to take college courses. In this center, we can provide college and career planning, virtual courses for college credit, and opportunities for CU instructors to actually teach courses on our campus. We also want to form a partnership for our industrial tech program with a company like Murakami who can help us teach students the skills to be successful leaders in manufacturing.

- 4) **Cardinal Academy:** Our goal for the next 3 years is to build upon the pilot year of this academy by offering a performance-based option where students have courses that they will complete without the constraints of a 7-period schedule. Students who chose this option will work with mentors to master the standards of their selected courses through self-paced, project-based learning.
- 5) **Preschool through High School Vision:** Our district is already working on creating a strong leadership of administrators from the elementary, middle and high school who work together to ensure the success of district led initiatives. Our vision is that we all take responsibility for the success of ALL students in our district. We will not be 4 separate schools. We will be one district with a unified vision.
- 6) **A Culture that Encourages Teacher and Student Leaders:** By 2017, we hope to have created a culture where every stakeholder has a voice and are provided opportunities to develop their leadership abilities. Teachers will be encouraged to be the innovative leaders and share their successes with other teachers. Students will know that their voice matters. We will continue with the work our GRIT team has begun this year.
- 7) **College and Career Counselor:** Even after the kidFRIENDly grant has run its course, TCHS will continue to support and expand the position of the college and career counselor. This position is a crucial part of who we are at TCHS.

TAYLOR COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL