PACE Revolution

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2016 National Excellence in Urban Education Symposium – San Diego, CA
Malcom Gladwell, Best Selling Author

“Transformation isn’t about improving. It’s about re-thinking.”
History

• James Pace High School was part of the second generation of Brownsville high schools. Opening in the mid-70’s, Pace was part of the break from tradition in Brownsville secondary education. No longer would all high school students attend Brownsville High School. The school's namesake, James Pace, served six terms during the 40’s, 50’s and 60’s as a BISD Board Member and was known for his tireless community involvement. James Pace High School received the Early College Designation in 2013 thus changing its name.
Mission and Vision

• James Pace Early College High School, educates students, graduates leaders and empowers the community

• James Pace High School will foster a safe, nurturing, intellectually challenging environment that ensures success for all students by developing pride, accountability, character, and excellence in the classroom, in the home, and in the community.
Demographics

• Enrollment 2015-2016: 2036
  • 2012 (98%) Hispanic
  • 278 (13%) English Language Learners
  • 272 (13%) Students with disabilities
  • 1998 (98%) Economically Disadvantage
  • 1436 (70%) At-Risk
  • 1875 (92%) Career and Technical Education
  • 18 (1%) Homeless
  • 94.2% Average Daily Attendance
School structure and leadership

• School Leadership
  • Principal
  • Dean of Instruction
  • Early College Director
  • PEIMS Administrator
  • IDEA Administrator
  • Assistant Principals

• Student Support Services
  • Academic Counselor
  • Transitional Counselor
  • Higher Ed Counselor
  • At-risk Team
  • College Advisors
  • Special Programs (504/ELL/IDEA)
  • Advisory Committee

• Teacher Leadership
  • Department Chairs
  • Strand Leaders
  • Academic Coaches
  • TLI Specialist
  • Behavior Intervention Team
  • SBDM Committee
Our Challenges

• Missed Adequate Yearly Progress (2011)
• High Mobility
• Inner City Population
• High Poverty Rate
• Student Transfers/Rezoning
Achievements

• 2016 NCUST Sliver Award Winner
• 2016 US News and World report Silver Medal Recipient
• Washington Post America’s Most Challenging Schools Winner
• 2015 Texas Education Agency 7 (of 7) Star Distinction Designation Campus
  • Academic Achievement in ELA
  • Academic Achievement in Mathematics
  • Academic Achievement in Science
  • Academic Achievement in Social Studies
  • Top 25% Closing Performance Gaps
  • Top 25% Postsecondary Readiness
  • Top 25% Student Progress
• 2015 Newsweek’s Best High School in America
• 2014 Texas Education Agency 6 (of 6) Star Distinction Designation Campus
• 2013 GenTX Award for More College Applications (100% of Seniors applied)
Positive Influences on Learning Results

• High Expectations for All Stakeholders
• Culture and Climate that Nurtures Learning
• Professional Learning Community
Transformational actions

- Modified Block Schedule
- Prescriptive Master Schedule
- Strategic Placement of FTEs
- Visibility
- Theory vs Practice (War Room)
- Lead by Example
- STEAMS/STAMP Programs
Culture and Climate

- College-Going Culture
- Big Event
- Meet the Viking
- Meet the Teacher Night
- Community Pep Rallies
- Community Carnival
- Fish Camp
- Summer Bridge
- Cohort Express
- Exit Conferences and Interviews
- Community Outreaches
- Positive Media Release
- Teacher Empowerment
High Expectations

• Early College Designation
  • Dual Enrollment/AP Enrollment
  • Apply Texas
  • Master’s Cohorts for Teachers
  • TSI/SAT Testing Sight
  • Associate Degree or Up to 60 College Hours Towards a Bachelors Degree

• Purposeful Planning through Common Planning Times
• Daily Student Interventions
  • Saturday Academies
  • SAT/ACT/TSI Prep
Top Recommendation

• Armed with the belief that we educate students, graduate leaders, and empower the community, we have transformed our school into a high performing campus. The change began, like most changes, with an idea and a hope for something better. To move from what we were to what we have become, however, would require a paradigm shift in all stakeholders. There was only one way to make this happen. The transformation of Pace Early College High School was a labor of love. We realized that we needed a revolution and a revolution without love produces anarchy. Love carried us through from the inception of the idea to the birth of what we have today. I am the proud principal of a school that has reinvented itself because we were passionate enough about our community to change. And that my friends came about because we chose love.