

# DOINGWHATWORKS



SAMPLE MATERIAL

## Pathways to Success Organization and Content

Del Valle High School, Texas

**Topic:** Dropout Prevention

**Practice:** Learning Environment

This presentation outlines the organization and content of Pathways to Success (PTS), a mandatory course in Del Valle High School's Freshman Academy. The course, which helps students gain the skills, behaviors, and understandings underpinning academic success, was launched in 2007 in response to the high course failure rate by freshmen.

School administrators who would like to develop a course like PTS can use this presentation to design its content and structure. To learn more about how Del Valle High School helps freshmen during this critical first year of high school, watch the multimedia piece *Preparing Students for Success Through the Freshman Academy*.



# Del Valle High School Freshman Academy

## *Implementing a Support System for 9<sup>th</sup> Graders*

Del Valle Independent School District



# Pathways To Success

## *Implementing a Tiered- Support System for 9<sup>th</sup> Graders*

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RtI Department Chair



## PTS Presentation Highlights

- ❖ 2006-2007: High Freshman Failure Rate
- ❖ 2007-2008: PTS program implemented to reduce failure rate and improve academics
- ❖ 2008-2009: Failure Rate lowered; DVHS makes AYP and is Recognized by TEA

Hoffman 3



## What is Path to Success? (PTS)

Daily elective course **REQUIRED** for all incoming freshman students with the goal of maintaining passing grades in **ALL** classes.

Hoffman 4



## Path To Success Philosophy

Our mission is to facilitate the learning of all students so that they will realize their full educational potential and ensure that DVHS students graduate with their cohort.

Hoffman 5



## Path To Success Tier I Curriculum

- ❖ Time Management Skills
- ❖ Study Strategies (Brain Based Learning)
- ❖ Credits Requirements for Graduation
- ❖ Attendance Requirements
- ❖ Tutoring Expectations
- ❖ Organizational Strategies
- ❖ Transcript Lessons
- ❖ 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens Curriculum
- ❖ Academic Counselors Visits
- ❖ TAKS Pull Out Groups
- ❖ Dating Violence Curriculum

Hoffman 6



## 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens: Go Program

- ❖ The 7 habits are:
  - Be Proactive
  - Begin With the End in Mind
  - Put First Things First
  - Think Win-Win
  - Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood
  - Synergize
  - Sharpen the Saw
- ❖ Video based lessons
- ❖ Opportunity for extension activities
- ❖ Quizzes for each lesson

Hoffman 7



## Structure of Tier 1 Classroom

- ❖ Monday:
    - Print Grades & Individual Student Conferences
  - ❖ Tuesday: Go Curriculum Lesson
  - ❖ Wednesday: Extension Activity
  - ❖ Thursday: Tutor Day
  - ❖ Friday: Quiz / Binder and Agenda Check
- Each Day students are given a minimum of 20-30 minutes to get work for other classes done

Hoffman 8



## Structure of Tier II

### ❖ Tier II

- Same Curriculum as Tier I
- Smaller Class Size (5 – 10 students)
- Smaller Student Load for Tier II teachers

### ❖ How students are placed in Tier II

- At the beginning of the year
  - ☐ Failed classes in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade
  - ☐ Recommended by former teachers
  - ☐ Deemed "At Risk"
- During the school year
  - ☐ Student is failing multiple classes (-10 rule)
  - ☐ Student has attendance issues

Hoffman 9



## Path To Success: Services

- ❖ Academic Counselor Visits
- ❖ Career Cruising
- ❖ Graduation Plan Development
- ❖ Attendance Administrator Visits
- ❖ Structured and Open Study
- ❖ Tutors
  - In Class and Tutoring Lab
  - University Students Tutor in high need subjects (mainly Algebra and Biology)

Hoffman 10



## PTS Interventions

- I. Provide students with the necessary skills, tools, and resources to be successful both inside and outside the classroom.
  - PTS Curriculum
  - Print Grades and Track Progress
  - Assign Tutoring
  - Academic Interventions

Hoffman 11



## PTS Interventions

- II. Reduce barriers to communication between teachers, students, and families.
  - PTS Teacher contact Parents
  - Grade Speed
  - Using translators for Spanish speaking parents
  - Encourage Core Teacher to contact parents
  - Database of scripts and form letters for communication
  - Face to Face Conferences with Parents
  - Academic Intervention Meetings (AIM)
  - Local Student Assistance Meeting (LST)
  - PTS Parent Night
  - School Messenger

Hoffman 12





## PTS Interventions

III. Work collaboratively with classroom teachers to ensure that students are meeting the requirements in all courses.

- Team meetings
- Email
- Informal conversations in the hallway
- Provide teachers with strategies
- Academic Interventions
- Assign tutorials

Hoffman 13



## PTS Interventions

IV. Introduce or Collaborate with Core Teachers to develop proper interventions.

- Provide teachers with a toolbox of interventions
- Make teachers aware of what they are doing well
- Show teachers how to be more effective
- Don't tell teachers what to do
- Have team teachers provide advice to other teachers on how to reach certain students
- Approaching PTS teachers is an intervention: if both the PTS teacher and the core teacher need ideas, brainstorm ideas at a future team meeting.

Hoffman 14





## PTS Interventions

### V. Help teachers determine students' academic weaknesses.

- Core teachers are rarely able to improve weaknesses during class time
- Teachers can refer students to Read 180 or Bridge to Algebra Support Classes
- Students with a specific weakness should go to their teacher for tutoring
- Give students prescriptive tutoring plan

Hoffman 15



## PTS Interventions

### VI. Change the culture of "just passing"

- Honor Roll Student celebrated
- 80+ students
- Teach students how to read/interpret their own transcript
- Have upper classmen peers speak to similar populations
  - pre-National Honor Society (NHS) students
  - Former Tier II/III students speak to current Tier III
- Teach the Importance of GPA
- Use tutors as mentors

Hoffman 16



## PTS Interventions

### VII. Create predictability of assignments.

- Re-takes of tests / late work policies
- PTS Teachers know the policies of each PLC
- PTS Teachers know how to manage in class assignments vs. homework
- PTS Teachers help students organize their work into agenda calendars
- Example: Algebra Homework

Hoffman 17