

Global Perspective Studies (GPS) Program

West Charlotte High School

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According to 2013-2014 End of Course (EOC) exam data, 91% of West Charlotte High School students are not proficient in math, and 76% are not proficient in English. Approximately 30% of the students who enter 9th grade fail to receive their high school diploma. Thus, it is not surprising that SAT scores are more than 90 points below their comparative sister schools in Charlotte and 300 points below the national scores (DPI, 2013). In 2013, the West Charlotte High School average ACT score was 13; the district average 21, and the state average 22.

The vision of the GPS Program is to create an at-risk student population driven to invest in their own education and future who are culturally aware, college ready and career focused.

Goal

The goal of the GPS Program is to increase graduation rate, maximize growth, and achieve proficiency in math and English through 21st century learning techniques, real world applications, and global exposure in order to inspire the student's personal investment in their education.

Focus

The GPS Program provides academic, social, and behavioral support to students who are at risk of not graduating in four years. The key features of the program include:

1. Cross-curricular instruction between English and mathematics classes
2. Integration of technology and individualized education plans
3. Social and behavioral incentives
4. Global exposure through an international service learning trip to South Africa

Cost

- Participation in the international field trip - \$5,000 per student totaling \$200,000 for 40 students. This includes:
 - Round trip international flight to South Africa
 - In-country transportation including internal flight, safari vans, and motorcoach
 - Hotels and three meals daily
 - Full time tour director
 - Sightseeing tours and game drives
 - Entrances into Apartheid Museum, Kruger National Park, South Africa Museum, Table Mountain summit, Robben Island, Cape Point Nature Reserve, Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens

- Experiential learning including visit to two different villages and a local school
- Passport fees - \$150 per student totaling \$6,000 for 40 students
- Social and behavior incentive program - \$100 per student totaling \$4,000

Impact

- Students will achieve more than one years growth in one years time
- Program students will graduate in four years and continue on to pursue higher education
- Decrease in % of suspensions/arrests/expulsions
- Freshman students aspire to be selected for program
- Program students take an interest in helping/engaging non-program students
- Personal leadership in academics and social behaviors