

TAF Academy Original Vision

Imagine that a student enters a TAF Academy in the sixth grade. Before school starts they meet with a school counselor and design an outline for their time at the Academy. They first discuss long-term goals such as college, career opportunities and what impact the student wants to have on the world. Next they talk about medium range goals that the student will have to attain to facilitate their long-term goals including high school graduation, grade point average, extra-curricular activities and accomplishments, internships, travel abroad and building their personal network. Lastly they sketch out short-term goals such as immediate course selection, extra-curricular activities for that year, and community service.

In this manner, TAF Academy will fully support each student by providing them an individualized roadmap to their personal goals and ambitions. We understand that regardless of background, most students envision themselves being successful in life. This natural instinct for self-preservation and improvement and the aspiration to improve one's own condition will be the context for all work at every TAF Academy.

Students will learn to succeed; not for standards or teacher expectations; not to compete in the workforce and fuel the economy; not for personal gain and prestige; but succeed so that they can position themselves to create the world that they themselves envision; personally, communally, nationally and globally.

TAF Academies will challenge students with issues of the 21st century: from disease epidemics, world hunger and geopolitics, to world trade, artificial intelligence and ecological sustainability. Each student will grapple with their personal, communal and cultural role in the global systems of environment and life. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) will permeate the curriculum to ensure that our students are wielding the most efficient and effective tools to analyze, communicate, synthesize, and evaluate their work and the world around them.

Through TAF Academies, students will realize new worlds of science, art, language and society. They will learn, create, teach and inspire. Gone are the days of outdated textbooks, recycled quizzes and short, memorized answers. TAF Academies will dawn the day of true performance-based assessment where students are graded, not on the answers they provide, but on the work of their hands and minds, their efforts to make positive change and their impact on the world.

Every student at a TAF Academy will publish, recite, translate, encode, author, manage, engineer, invent, construct and govern. Every student will succeed!

True leadership cannot be taught or bestowed, but is born from necessity. When a people or situation direly needs change, leaders are those who step forward to pave the way. Indeed, there has never been a more dire need for the students of any generation to step forward and lead the way to a better existence for all mankind.

TAF Academies will produce that next generation of leaders: leadership for our community, leadership for our country, and leadership for the world.