

Analysis of Options for Education Center Instructional Focus

WORKING DRAFT

Features by Option										
Features	Washington-Lee Ninth-Grade Academy	High Tech/STEM	Leadership/Public Service High School	World Language High School	STEAM High School	Creative & Performing Arts High School	Early College High School	Business High School	Expansion of W-L	International Baccalaureate
Definition	The Washington-Lee Ninth-Grade Academy is designed to ease the transition to high school by creating a smaller learning environment where students make connections to teachers and peers. Teachers, counselors, and administrators partner with families to help support students as they meet the rigors of high school. Students will be assigned to a Small Learning Community (SLC) where they will share the same core teachers in science, social studies, and English. Teachers, on the same SLC, will have a common planning period. This will allow them to consider individual and collective student needs, across curricular areas. SLCs also encourage the development and maintenance of relationships between students and teachers.	High Tech/STEM High School provides students with an interdisciplinary problem-based instructional focus on science, technology, engineering, and math explorations that prepares students to be socially/ethically responsible global citizens, and lifelong learners ready for college and careers, and to be leaders in an evolving and connected world.	Leadership/Public Service High School strives to prepare students to serve as active leaders of and contributors to the global community. Students will engage in complex instructional tasks designed to enhance individual and collective capacities to promote social justice. Curriculum will be supplemented with opportunities to work directly with local, state, and federal government, as well as charitable organizations.	World Language High School will provide students interested in learning one or more low enrollment (in APS) languages with a proficiency-based curriculum that enables students to use the world language in real life situations. Students will transfer into the school and engage in curriculum designed to develop functional proficiency. Students will be provided with frequent opportunities for spontaneous communicative interaction in the language, with constructive and timely feedback from an educator specifically trained in that language. Students will be supported as they interact with other speakers.	STEAM is an educational approach to learning that uses Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking. This instructional focus also integrates language arts, social studies, physical arts, fine arts, and music that each shape developments in STEM fields. The end results are students who take thoughtful risks, engage in experiential learning, persist in problem-solving, embrace collaboration, and work through the creative process. Students become the innovators, educators, leaders, and learners of the 21st century.	A Creative and Performing Arts High school specializes in teaching visual and performance arts. The school has a dual mission of arts and academics, preparing students for a career in the arts or conservatory study as well as a pursuit of higher education. It provides a rigorous academic curriculum and a conservatory style training in the visual and performing arts where students engage with curriculum that includes an intensified arts focus.	Early college high school provides an opportunity for students to earn both a high school degree and a two-year associate's degree (or up to two years of college credits) in the time it takes to complete high school. Students and families will be supported as they identify interests, strengths, and needs in order to develop, initiate, and maintain a personalized learning plan.	Business High School introduces students to the basics of personal finance, the decision-making technique needed to be wise consumers, the economic principles of an increasingly international marketplace, and the processes by which businesses operate. Students will engage with curriculum designed to provide a solid educational foundation to successfully complete college programs in various business disciplines.	Increase the Washington-Lee student capacity by approximately 600 students while maintaining the current Washington-Lee instructional program.	Increase the number of seats available for the International Baccalaureate full IB Diploma program. The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme (DP) "aims to develop students who have excellent breadth and depth of knowledge- students who flourish physically, intellectually, emotionally, and ethically...students reflect on the nature of knowledge, complete independent research, and undertake a project that often involves community service." (http://www.ibo.org/programmes/diploma-programme/)

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Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedicated space Helps with adjustments to high school Includes emotional, academic, and social support Core teachers for English, history, and science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hands-on learning Project-based activities Problem-based learning/growth mindset Individual exploration High rate of students taking AP High rate of students enrolling in 4-year college Career mindedness/professional(ism) focus Personal development: Goal setting, self-empowerment, responsibility for learning, creativity, critical thinking, collaboration/teamwork, discovery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internships Political engagement Mentorships Social justice Foci Service learning Interdisciplinary/interconnected program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small setting Professional learning community College readiness community Emphasis on cultures and arts Builds proficiency in at least language, other than English 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-quality, team-based education Coordinated subjects (tied together with math, technology, engineering, focus) Aware and tolerant of diversity and perspectives Focus on authentic training for jobs and business Problem and solution lesson focus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art focused building Large flexible space and schedule 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students receive teaching, supervision, and guidance This makes college accessible to more students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual enterprise Simulation experience Competency testing School within-a-school Pathway - business Apprentice/internship Work based learning during high school Established curriculum and national assessment 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develops students who have excellent breadth and depth of knowledge; flourish physically, intellectually, emotionally, and ethically; study at least two languages; excel in traditional academic subjects; explore nature of knowledge (http://www.ibo.org/programmes/diploma-programme/what-is-the-dp/)