

August 4, 2018



Foothills Education Charter High School Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment August 2018

Staff, Friends, and Supporters of Foothills Education Charter High School:

After a year of focused study and work on curriculum, data, assessment, and instruction, Foothills administrators and staff are facing the fall semester with great excitement and anticipation.

As **Superintendent Dr. Sherrie Gibney-Sherman** shared via email last week:

"We are very excited to roll out our updated EOC courses on Monday, August 6th. Students and staff will be pleased with the results of the work by our curriculum grant teams.... If there are any questions, please contact:

- Mark Tavernier about curriculum and assessment work
- Leo Satara about technology issues
- Scott Gordon about roll out plans (also see below)

"This is an exciting time at Foothills," stated Dr. Gibney-Sherman. "I do believe we have worked through a million obstacles to create a meaningful process to not only improve test scores, but, more importantly, improve instruction. We are proud, again, to be able to share our work with Coastal Plains so that they can avoid some of the challenges we have faced."

As the new term begins, it is also worth revisiting Dr. Gibney-Sherman's remarks from last month's Strategic Planning Retreat, regarding the remarkable growth and progress of Foothills over the past two years:"The model is working and being replicated all over the state.... Foothills is now serving more than 1800 students, with 233 graduates to date this year, and a total of 538 graduates since the school's inception."



Regional Director for Instruction Scott Gordon shared these specific, bullet-point updates, summarizing some of the key changes Foothills will be seeing in the coming year:

Change of sequence

- Pre-Algebra required before Algebra I
- 10th lit required before 9th lit

Pre-Algebra

- Exit exam created on the DSC (assesslet) platform
- Teachers and tutors should use exit exam to guide Algebra I work

Graduation Calculator

- From Mountain Education Charter High School
- Will enable using Student Services staff to work more effectively with students to determine precisely what they need to graduate and when they can expect to graduate

Data Team

- Will review each set of mid-month EOC results
- Site representatives will present at monthly faculty meetings

Curriculum Teams

- Will use new standards-based assessments developed by the Georgia Center for Assessment
- Will use the result of the newly developed assessments to make ongoing changes in curriculum and assessment
- Will respond to input from subject area teachers at Foothills and Coastal Plains Charter High School

Instructional Coaches

- Will present at monthly faculty meetings
- Will focus on goal setting and will develop a new teacher orientation

EOC Review

- Will be simplified and strengthened by new coordinator, **Rebecca Moon**, and the data team

Another major change to the Foothills world is the addition of the National Guard's Youth Challenge Program, to be overseen by **Dr. Allen McCannon, Regional Director for Special Campuses**. Youth Challenge academies are located in Fort Stewart, Fort Gordon, and Milledgeville.

Finally, it is worth reviewing the **Foothills Continuous Improvement Process, comprised of the Strategic Plan, the District Improvement Plan, and Data Analysis**.

You can click [Foothills Strategic Plan](#) to view the complete plan, which covers in details the areas of Coherent Instruction, Professional Capacity, Supportive Learning Environment, Family and Community Engagement, and Effective Leadership.

View the [District Improvement Plan](#), which specifically targets two goals:

- 1) Increase student performance on the Georgia Milestones to the state performance target in each area;
- 2) Increase the number of students meeting high school graduation requirements and completing the Foothills postsecondary transition plan.

Great challenges lie ahead for everyone at Foothills, but as mentioned last month, administrators, teachers, and all staff are ready to begin the year, feeling energized and more ready than ever to take on the goals of successfully reaching every Foothills student.

See you next month with the September update.

Regards,
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