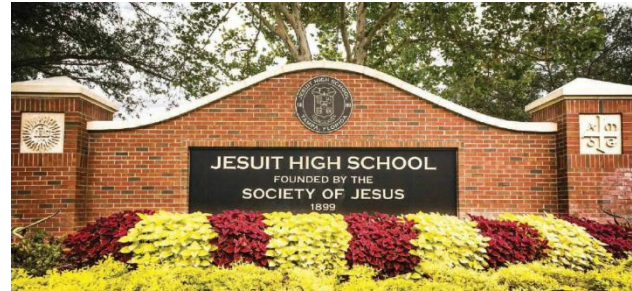


MAKING THE CASE

AVLI SELF-PACED COMPETENCY-BASED COURSE MAKING A DIFFERENCE AT TAMPA JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL

*An interview with Assistant Principal for Academics Debra Pacheco regarding the school's adoption and use of **Growing Up Healthy***



AVLI

What prompted you to explore the use of Growing Up Healthy? What problem were you looking to solve?

PACHECO

Two things prompted this change for Tampa Jesuit.

1. There was a need for a change in our freshman curriculum. In the past, our freshmen were enrolled in 7 class periods plus lunch. One of these periods was occupied with Social Studies (1 semester) and Speech (1 semester). Another period was occupied with Personal Fitness (1 semester) and Health (1 semester). Through curriculum meetings, we saw a strong need to adopt a full year course in social studies as opposed to the single semester course. Since we did not desire to drop any of the above courses from our curriculum, Arrupe Virtual's *Growing Up Healthy* was the perfect solution. Our students could now take the full year social studies course without sacrificing any of the courses currently in our curriculum.
2. A second reason was a change in the Florida graduation requirements. All students in Florida schools are now required to take one online course. This change was implemented due to the large number of online courses being offered in our colleges and universities. It is seen as a way to prepare students for the challenges of online learning in higher education.

AVLI

Explain how you use the course.

PACHECO

Again, this is a freshman course for our students. During our first year of implementation, we offered it as a first semester course starting in September of a student's freshman year. As we approached year two, parents of incoming freshmen asked if we would allow students to take the course in the summer leading up to their freshman year. We decided to try it. An email was sent out to the parents of incoming freshmen and the response was more than we expected. Three quarters of our freshman class asked to be enrolled in the summer course. This year, enrollment was made even more convenient for our school and parents. Arrupe Virtual provided us with a link (which I include in my initial email) for

summer enrollment. This link allows parents to register their sons and pay the fee online. Once registered, AVLI sends each student/parent their log in credentials. My only responsibility, therefore, is to provide the initial intro letter. Over the course of the summer I am given updates on my students. I use the information to send emails reminding students of the need to fulfill this requirement. AVLI also sends reminders to parents/students directly and I am always Cc'd on these emails. Although there is a set end date for all AVLI courses, I have been allowed to set my own earlier end date. Once the course has ended, I am sent final grades and transcripts for all of my students. These are entered into our grading program and reflected on student progress reports and first semester report card. We assign a Pass/Fail grade. Students who do not enroll in the summer are enrolled by me in the fall. In September, I send AVLI a list of all my students that need to enroll with their phone numbers and email addresses. Arrupe Virtual sends them their credentials. Jesuit H.S. receives a bill for these students and we add this amount to the Student's yearly fees.

AVLI

What's the best thing about it?

PACHECO

This program has run very smoothly for us and we are very pleased. The self-paced modules give our students a taste of online learning that has proven to be valuable. Our parents love the flexibility of registering their sons in the summer or fall depending on extra-curricular activities.

An added bonus is that it offers us a method for ensuring that our transfer students complete health.

Arrupe Virtual has been wonderful in their communication with us regarding students who are in danger of failing.

AVLI

What are the challenges that still remain?

PACHECO

With the ease of self-registration in the summer and constant updates in summer and fall, we see no areas in need of improvement.