



*Safe and Collaborative Culture ★ Effective Teaching ★ Organizational Effectiveness*

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## **Serenity High**

### **Campus Profile**

Serenity High is a recovery high school for adolescents who have successfully completed a recognized treatment program and who are committed to obtaining a diploma in a safe and supportive, drug-free learning environment. A low student/teacher ratio provides students with a setting geared toward their academic success. A self-paced accelerated curriculum affords teachers the means to differentiate instruction to meet the needs of individual learning modalities. Weekly on campus Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings support students' recovery support in an effective, real-world fashion. Separate recovery support meetings for the guys and the girls provide an additional means of support as it relates to addressing their needs in a gender specific group dynamic.

Students in recovery benefit from opportunities to rebuild their self-esteem which is a key indicator for long term sobriety. Helping students understand the value of altruism is an integral component of Serenity's approach to teaching the whole child. To that end students participate in Serenity's community out-reach program by volunteering as teacher's aides and student mentors at selected elementary schools in the district. Not only do the students have the opportunity to build meaningful relationships a teacher and his/her students. The hours of participation are documented and are used for gaining employment and college admission.

In addition to serving the students of McKinney, SHS has established partnership with 10 area school districts. In addition to establishing recent partnerships with Anna ISD and Carrollton Farmers Branch ISD, Serenity High will strive to collaborate with other school districts whose students could benefit from the services of a recovery high school.

### **Key Findings**

Serenity High is a charter member of the Association of Recovery Schools a national organization committed to the advocacy of youth recovery. SHS is beginning its 20th year of operation and has graduated 289 students (2017-2018 fall/winter semester 11 graduate – spring semester 8 graduates). Serenity served 43 students during the 2017-2018 school year. For the 2017-2018 STAAR test, SHS students met standards in all subject areas.

### **Areas for Instructional Improvement**

Targeted areas will include: supplementing the APEX on-line learning curriculum with Canvas, a learning management system which is designed to customize the educational experience to fit the students' individual learning modality. Project based learning will also be used to supplement the on-line curriculum which will include both on and off campus learning opportunities designed for student success. With the possible exception of the Math courses, integrate the topic of recovery and support a key interdisciplinary element in all subject areas. Partner with Serenity's instructional staff with the Professional Learning Communities at McKinney North High School.

### **Actions to Improve Student Performance**

Schedule time for students to research MEF scholarships, meet with individual students and inform parents of ACT/SAT testing dates. Each student maintains an academic folder with credits and projected courses needed for graduation which is reviewed on a weekly basis with their teachers and campus administrator. In the area of parent communication, we are emailing bi-monthly reports to parents with a brief summary of student progress and then expanding the report at the end of each month. In addition to parent/teacher conferences, six parent night events will be scheduled during the school year. In addition to learning about the latest trends for supporting adolescents in recovery these events are also designed to provide parents with an opportunity to network with one another. Students will benefit from the sense of knowing that they are a part of a strong recovery community. Serenity High will continue to develop our peer to peer relationships with other districts, as our students have been invited to speak at Parish Episcopal, and Frisco ISD's Keys Program to share the Serenity story and support other youth and families. Staff renewed efforts toward building relationships, expanding learning resources and exploring ways to network with other recovery high schools and community advocates.