



Exploring Careers & Education in Leadership

at Largo High School

Established in 1993, ExCEL is a county-wide magnet program which is a school-within-a-school at Largo High School. Our students travel from throughout Pinellas County to this unique magnet program. Unlike other magnet and application programs, ExCEL focuses on alternative assessments, career exploration of hundreds of career pathways, and



the building of strong interpersonal skills which propel our students ahead of their peers.

In this college-preparatory program, students take their academic and specialized ExCEL elective with ExCEL teachers* (*unique, higher level classes may be a mixed class).

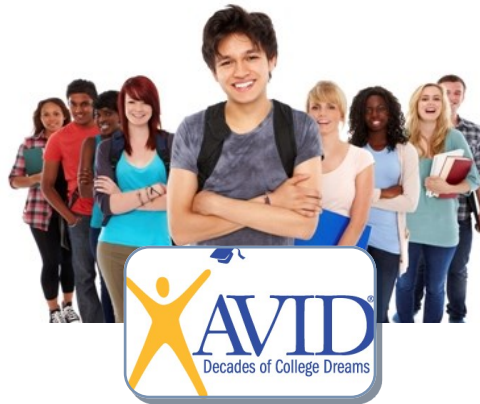
We seek motivated, academically talented students who want more from school than reading a textbook and taking a test.

Brand new state-of-the-art campus—Largo High School.



Career Shadowing

- Shadow various professionals during their workday.
- Our students have spent the day with judges, firefighters, jet pilots, morticians, veterinarians, chefs, doctors — think of a career, and the chances are one of our students has spent the day discovering if that career is suited for them.
- Inquire about salaries, educational requirements, and working conditions.
- Received employment opportunities; internships; career mentors; received scholarships from the place shadowed



AVID / ExCEL Elective

- Merged with ExCEL's electives of Peer Mediation, Leadership and Career & Scholarship Research into AVID's elective strand
- Teaches skills and behaviors for academic success—even the best students find enrichment
- Promotes escalating academic rigor
- Provides intensive support with tutorials and strong teacher/student relationships
- Builds test taking skills for the SAT/ACT
- Provides college & scholarship support



Camaraderie

- Atmosphere of "family" is created by group activities, workshops and team building skills
- Population of motivated, academically successful, responsible school leaders who represent the entire population at Largo High School in many activities
- ExCEL staff KNOW our students and families which build strong, lasting relationships
- Students feel connection to school
- ExCEL students graduate knowing their entire program graduating class



Who should consider ExCEL?

Motivated students who like school and want to learn in an environment that is student-centered.

Average to above average in academics—students are required to take progressively harder rigor leading towards Advanced Placement course(s) and/or Dual-Enrollment course(s).



What do you need to apply?

Supporting documents:

- Three years of academic history—final 6th grade report card, final 7th grade report card and current 8th grade report card
- Test history in total reading and total math compared to a national scale (FCAT, FSA, Iowa, Stanford Achievement, PSAT, etc.)
- Discipline review that shows good citizenship to previous school(s).

Pinellas County public school's students do not need to send supporting documents as we can generate the necessary reports.

Charter school students need only the current report card as we can generate history data.

Private school students or students who came from out-of-state for all or part of middle school will need a transcript of supporting documents.

How to apply?

<http://reservation.pcsb.org>

Regular Application Period: **January 4 to January 15**

Late Application Period starts on **March 22**

Two step process

Step 1: Apply online at <http://reservation.pcsb.org>. Look for **District Applications** link on this page.

- Parents will need their Focus user ID and password to complete this process.
- The system will ask your child's name, birthdate, your address and family information for placement.
- It will then give you choices of applications which you will rank in number order from 1 to 5. Your preferred program should be #1. This option is important as your 1st, and only your 1st, choice will help you should your application go on a waitlist. Waitlist on your 1st choice will rise to the top of the waitlist for your preferred program.

Step 2: Log back into the system during the Acceptance Period (**February 8 to 15**) to see the results and select your preferred program. See application guide or inquire about staying on waitlists or neglecting to make a decision.

Seeing the program

- Come to the **ExCEL Discovery Night, November 15 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Largo HS Auditorium
- Tour the campus during our school day. Call the ExCEL office for an appointment.
- **Applicant Shadow**—Prospective students will spend the day at Largo HS with a current ExCEL student during this full day event. Call the ExCEL office for an appointment. Applicant Shadowing runs **November 1 to February 3**.

Exploring Careers & Education in Leadership (ExCEL)

Largo High School, 410 Missouri Avenue, Largo

727-588-4622

Email: excel@pcs.org

www.excel.pcsb.org



Typical course schedule for
ExCEL - Exploring Careers & Education in Leadership
Classic Progression

Freshmen (9)

English I or English I Honors (full year) *	
Physics I or Physics I Honors (full year)	
Algebra I, Geometry Honors or Algebra II Honors (full year)	
AVID I (& Peer Counseling) - <i>ExCEL required elective class</i>	
Global Studies (or AP Human Geography—(full year)	Elective
Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective

Sophomores (10)

English II or English II Honors (full year)	
Chemistry I or Chemistry I Honors (full year)	
Geometry, Algebra II, Algebra II Honors or Pre-Calculus (full year)	
World History, World History Honors or AP World History (full year)	
AVID II (& Leadership Skills Development) - <i>ExCEL required elective class</i>	
Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective

Juniors (11)

English III, English III Honors or AP English Language/Comp Innov. (full year)	
Biology I Honors (full year)	
Algebra II, Algebra II Honors, Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus, or AP Statistics (full year)	
US History, US History Honors or AP United States History (full year)	
AVID III (& Career Research & Decision Making Skills) - <i>ExCEL required elective class</i>	
Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective

Seniors (12)

English IV: FL College Prep, English IV Honors or AP English Literature (full year)	
Algebra II, Algebra II Honors, Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus, AP Statistics or Math for College Readiness (full year)	
AVID IV (& Leadership Techniques) - <i>ExCEL required elective class</i>	
Economics or Economics Honors	US Government or US Government Honors
Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective

AVID has an expectation of increasing rigorous curriculum: (9th grade at least 1 honors course, 10th grade at least 2 honors courses, 11th grade at least 1 Advanced Placement course and 1 honor course)



Typical course schedule for
ExCEL - Exploring Careers & Education in Leadership
Accelerated Progression

Freshmen (9)

English II Honors (full year)	
Physics I or Physics I Honors (full year)	
Algebra I, Geometry Honors or Algebra II Honors (full year)	
AP Human Geography	
AVID I (& Peer Counseling) - ExCEL required elective class	
<i>Elective</i>	<i>Elective</i>
<i>Elective</i>	<i>Elective</i>

Sophomores (10)

English III Honors or AP English Language/Comp Innov. (full year)	
Chemistry I or Chemistry I Honors (full year)	
Geometry, Geometry Honors, Algebra II, Algebra II Honors or Pre-Calculus (full year)	
World History Honors or AP World History (full year)	
AVID II (& Leadership Skills Development) - ExCEL required elective class	
<i>Elective</i>	<i>Elective</i>
<i>Elective</i>	<i>Elective</i>

Juniors (11)

English IV: FL Collge Prep, English IV Honors or AP English Literature (full year)	
Biology I Honors (full year)	
Algebra II, Algebra II Honors, Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus, or AP Statistics (full year)	
US History, US History Honors or AP US History (full year)	
AVID III (& Career Research & Decision Making Skills) - ExCEL required elective class	
<i>Elective</i>	<i>Elective</i>
<i>Elective</i>	<i>Elective</i>

Seniors (12)

AP English Literature or Dual Enrollment English here or at SPC (full year)	
Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus, AP Statistics or Math for College Readiness (full year)	
AVID IV (& Leadership Techniques) - ExCEL required elective class	
US Government or US Government Honors	Economics or Economics Honors
<i>Elective</i>	<i>Elective</i>
<i>Elective</i>	<i>Elective</i>
<i>Elective</i>	<i>Elective</i>

AVID has an expectation of increasing rigorous curriculum: (9th grade at least 1 honors course, 10th grade at least 2 honors courses, 11th grade at least 1 Advanced Placement course and 1 honor course)



Largo High School

Course Listing

LHS Curriculum Guide with course descriptions available online at: www.largo-hs.pcsb.org

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

- AP Biology
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Capstone
- AP Chemistry
- AP Computer Science
- AP English Language & Composition
- AP English Literature & Composition
- AP Environmental Science
- AP European History
- AP French Language
- AP Human Geography
- AP Psychology
- AP Spanish Language
- AP Statistics
- AP Studio Art: 2-D Design
- AP Studio Art: 3-D Design
- AP United States History
- AP World History

ART

- AP Studio Art: 2D Design
- AP Studio Art: 3D Design
- Art 2D
- Art 3D
- Commercial & Digital Art (CAS)
- Computer Graphics 1-2
- Computer Art: Image Processing
- Ceramics 1—3
- Drawing 1—3
- Painting 1—3
- Photography 1—4
- Portfolio 1
- Sculpture 1—4

BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

- Digital Information Technology
- TV Production
- Visual Design for Gaming (CAS)

COMPUTER SCIENCE

- Intro to Information Technology
- Gaming & Programming (CAS)
- Networking I—IV
- PC Support I—III
- (opportunity to be Microsoft Certified)*

DRAMA

- Introduction to Drama
- Drama I—IV
- Comprehensive Theater I—IV
- Musical Theater I—II
- Stagecraft I—II

DRIVER EDUCATION

DUAL ENROLLMENT

- DE 20th Century History
- DE American National Government
- DE The College Experience

- DE College Algebra
- DE Composition I
- DE Composition II
- DE Executive Internship 1—4
- DE Greek Mythology
- DE Intermediate Algebra

ENGLISH

- AP English Language & Composition
- AP English Literature & Composition
- DE Composition I & 2
- DE Greek Mythology
- English I—IV & Honors
- Creative Writing I—III
- Journalism I—IV
 - Newspaper
 - Yearbook
- Research 1 (SAT Prep Class)
- Speech 1—2

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

- Early Childhood Education I—IV
- (School based pre-school)*
- Foods 1—3

HOPE *(Health Opportunities though Physical Ed. — typically taken in 10th grade or online)*

INDUSTRIAL/ TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

- Drafting
 - Architectural Drafting & Design 2—3
 - Mechanical Drafting & Design 1
- Automotive Tech
- Welding
- Building Construction Tech (CAS)
- Electrical (CAS)
- Nursing (CAS)
- Solar Engineering (CAS)
- Veterinary Assisting (CAS)
- Visual Design for Gaming (CAS)

EXCEL MAGNET ELECTIVES

- AVID I & Peer Counseling
- AVID II & Leadership Skills Development
- AVID III & Career Research & Decision Making
- AVID IV & Leadership Techniques
- AP Capstone

MATHEMATICS

- Algebra I
- Algebra II & Honors
- Analytic Geometry
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Statistics
- DE College Algebra
- Geometry I & Honors
- Liberal Arts Mathematics
- Mathematics for College Readiness
- Mathematical Analysis
- Pre-Calculus
- Research I (SAT Prep)
- Trigonometry

MUSIC

- BAND**
 - Blue Band I—III
 - Gold Band III—V
 - Guitar 1—3
 - Instrumental Techniques
 - Instrumental Ensemble 1—2 *(percussion)*

- Keyboard 1—3
- Orchestra I—V
- CHORUS**
 - Concert Choir II—V
 - Mixed Chorus I
 - Madrigal Singers 1—V

COLOR GUARD

- Color Guard—Eurhythmics 1—4

OTHER MUSIC

- Guitar I—III
- Keyboarding I—IV
- Musical Theater I—II
- Music Theory II

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Aerobics 1—3
- Basketball 1—3
- Team Sports 1—2
- Tennis 1—5
- Volleyball 1—3
- Weights 1—5

SCIENCE

- AP Biology
- AP Chemistry
- AP Environmental Science
- Anatomy & Physiology & Honors
- Biology I & Honors
- Biology II Honors
- Chemistry & Honors
- Chemistry II Honors
- Marine Science
- Marine Science II Honors
- Physics & Honors
- Physics II Honors

SOCIAL STUDIES

- AP Human Geography
- AP European History
- AP Psychology
- AP US History
- AP World History
- American Government/Honors
- American History
- DE 20th Century History
- DE American National Government
- Global Studies
- Economics/Honors
- Law Studies 1
- Psychology 1
- Sociology 1
- World History
- World Religions 1

WORLD LANGUAGES

- French 1—6 & Advanced Placement
- Spanish 1—6 & Advanced Placement



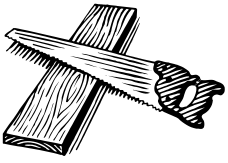
In addition to the courses listed here, students may take courses during their regular school day at:

- ◆ **Career Academies of Seminole (CAS)**
(see back for details)
- ◆ **PTEC in Clearwater and/or**
- ◆ **St. Petersburg College (SPC)**

Career Academies of Seminole

www.pcsb.org/CAS

Career Academies of Seminole (CAS) was formerly known as Seminole Vocational Education Center SVEC is located a short bus ride from LHS. All courses taken at CAS are one credit. The classes are double class periods for one semester each. Upon completion, students have the opportunity for industry certification. Students can qualify for Bright Futures Scholarships.



Building Construction Tech

The Building Construction Technology program prepares students for employment in the industry with a stress on basic construction trade techniques. The program requires a 70% mastery of all modules in order to obtain National Center for Construction Education and Research, (NCCER) certification. The instructor will require students to identify, organize and use resources appropriately. Upon completion of level one students will be able to work with each other cooperatively and productively, to acquire and use information, and to work with a variety of tools and equipment. Industry certification through the National Center for Construction Education and Research, (NCCER) can be obtained and is a nationally recognized program used throughout the country.



Commercial & Digital Art

This class is perfect for students looking to learn how to use industry software such as Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator as well as Corel Draw. Upper level students can receive industry certification from Adobe before graduation. (Adobe Certified Associate). Learn how to design; about the industry; and how to freelance as an artist. Study art history, industry trends and create an online portfolio. For students who like to sketch, plan and draw while critically and creatively solving problems. Upper levels also have access to a laser engraver which can be used to make canvas signs, auto decals and can etch into almost anything. Classroom uses Dell computers, Adobe CS5.5 software and a plotter printer, capable of printing posters, banners and other over-sized signage. We also have a state-of-the-art Macintosh lab complete with Bamboo digital pens as well as digital still and video cameras.

Electricity

The electricity class covers everything you would want to know about the basics of electricity and basic circuit wiring. Whether you are beginning or already have some skills in this area, you can look forward to a hands-on learning experience.



Gaming & Programming

Turn your passion for gaming into an exciting career as a Game Designer, Software Developer, Programmer, QA tester, Audio Engineer, User Interface Engineer, Script or Technical writer, 3-D animator, and more! This program is project-based and focuses on production planning and design, storyboarding, visual design, integration of digital audio and video into new game productions, programming for single and multi-user environments, delivery systems, and collaboration/teamwork. The content includes but is not limited to practical experiences in game/simulation conceptualization, design, storyboarding, development methodologies, essential programming techniques, and implementation issues. It is a classroom centered on inquiry and exploration. For detailed course information, please visit MrsKirk.com

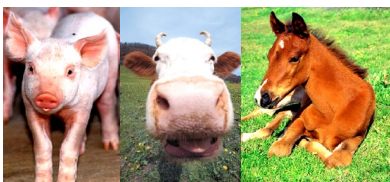


Nursing

Nursing assistant program provides an exciting pathway to a career in nursing which will start right here! The program provides hands-on real world training and 40 clinical hours which can be applied to the 600 clinical hours required in the Licensed Practical Nursing program. The possibilities are endless with the articulation agreements to bridge programs in our local colleges and universities—LPN (PTC); RN (SPC); Nurse Practitioner (USF) and Doctor of Nursing Practice.

Solar Engineering

This program will provide students the opportunity to have hands-on projects converting radiant energy to heat, actual full size solar panel projects running lights and design creations by students. Students will find the most appropriate position for a solar panel array with the use of the Solar Eye - GPS location instrument which shows the entire year's shading in a specific location. Careers include: Solar Photovoltaic Installer, Solar Panel Systems Installer, Energy Manager, Energy Analyst, Solar Swimming Pool Systems, Electrical and Mechanical engineering and more.



Veterinary Assisting

The content of this program includes, but is not limited to, instruction that prepares individuals to provide services in the breeding, feeding, care, training, selection, and healthcare, grooming and showing of animals. Students have the option to purchase a piglet or calf to raise to show and sell at the Florida State Fair. Students taking this course may consider a career in the veterinary industry. Students have the opportunity for Veterinary Assisting Certification. Students are encouraged to participate and compete in FFA—Future Farmers of America. An extracurricular horse Riding Club is also available.



ExCEL – Exploring Careers & Education in Leadership

Career Shadowing

To give our students a career focus, magnet students will shadow various professionals during their workday. Our students have spent the day with judges, firefighters, jet pilots, morticians, veterinarians, chefs, doctors — think of a career, and the chances are one of our students has spent the day discovering if that career is suited for them.



Examples of some of our students' experiences are: standing beside a surgeon during delicate open heart surgery, going to a crime scene and watching forensic scientists pick-up possible clues, accompanying Busch Garden's veterinarians care for exotic animals, or developing lesson plans and teaching elementary, middle or high school students. These are just a few of the many activities our students had while shadowing in the magnet program. Not only do our students have once in a lifetime experiences while shadowing, this one-day, twice a year, activity permits students to inquire about salaries, educational requirements and working conditions.

While students spend the day investigating careers they can inquire about salaries, educational requirements, and working conditions. Many of our students have received employment opportunities; internships; career mentors; received scholarships from the place shadowed; and have begun the networking process toward their future careers.



PAR Counselor
Shelter Supervisor
UPARC Director
Youth Minister
Youth Pastor

International Business & Finance

Accountant
Advertising Executive
Attorney-at-Law
Circuit Court Judge
City Manager

Public Relations
Reality
Recreation Supervisor
Restaurant Management
Retail Sales
Retirement Planner
Sales Consultant
Small Business Owner
State Attorney
Store Manager
Tele-messaging Services
Utility Engineer

Paramedic
Pilot
Photographer
Playwright
Police Officer
Private Investigator
Professional Golfer
Race Horse Trainer
Radio Announcer

ESOL Teacher
Guidance Counselor
High School Teacher
Middle School Teacher
Music Teacher
Parochial School Teacher
Physical Education Teacher
Principal, Primary Education
Principal, Secondary Education
School Administration
School Counselor
Special Education Teacher
Speech Pathologist

Health Careers

Activities Director
Bio-Chemical Waste
Cardiovascular
Clinical Manager
Chiropractic
Dentist
EMS Technician
Forensics
Gynecology
Helicopter Rescue
Histology
Laboratory Admin.
Medical Assistant
Mental Health
Nuclear Medicine
Nurse
Nurse Practitioner
Nursing Home Asst.
Occupational Therapist
Orthodontist
Optometrist
Paramedic
Physical Therapist
Physician
Physician's Asst.
Radiology
Registered Nurse
Sports Trainer
Surgeon
X-Ray Technologist



City Planning
Communications Management
Community Center Manager
Computer Management
Corp. Relocation Coordinator
Customer Service Representative
Database Management
Financial Consultant
Food Services
Hotel Supervisor
Housing Rehabilitation Manager
Insurance Agent
Internet Development
Investment Rep.
Inventory Analyst
Laser Technician
Market Management
Marketing Analyst
Network Technician
Para-Legal
Patent Attorney
Political Action Advocate
Property Management

Industrial Technology

Air Traffic Controller
Auto Repair
Auto Body Technician
Aviation Attendant
Baker
Beautician
Bus Driver
Commercial Artist
Construction
Curator of a Museum
Drafting
Electrician
EMS Technician
Engineer
Equipment Manager
Firefighter
Graphic Artist
Helicopter Rescue
Jet Pilot
Letter Carrier
Lifeguard
Masonry
Mechanical Engineer
Meteorologist
Nail Technician
Navigation
Newspaper Publisher
Newspaper Columnist
Newspaper Photographer
Nursery (plants) Operator



Radio Disc Jockey
Rescue Supervisor
Real Estate Sales Rep.
Remodeling Consultant
Sports Announcer
Theatrics
Transportation Coordinator
TV Announcer
Upholstery/ Antiques

Teaching Arts

Adult Driving Teacher
Alternative Education
Art Teacher
Assistant Principal
Child Care Provider
College Professor
Drama Teacher
Dropout Prevention Specialist
Elementary Teacher



Zoology

Animal Care Management
Biologist
Oceanography
Marine Biologist
Marine Trainer
Primatologist w/Jane Goodall



Stable Operator
Veterinarian
Veterinarian Assistant
Zookeeper

www.excel.pcsb.org

(727) 588-4622

excel@pcsb.org



Human Services

Children's Services
Foster Care
HRS
Minister



Endorsements

Parent Endorsements

(Listed by parent's name, student's name and school from which student entered the ExCEL magnet program)

After seeing the success my first two children experienced in the ExCEL program there was no doubt that I wanted the same experience for my third child. My incoming freshman was a MEGSSS student and could have chosen to go to just about any school or program in the county. The tight-knit community of students, teachers, and staff in ExCEL creates a rich, family-like environment which, combined with the excellent academics, makes for the absolute best high school experience I could imagine. Participation in this program was a huge asset for my daughter when applying for college and she is now a successful freshman at USF in Tampa. I feel confident that my two future high school students will follow the their siblings' footsteps.

Lorie Rawe

Maisey (2013 Summa Cum Laude), Taylor (2014) & Jack (2017)

Deciding on a high school for my daughter was a challenge I was not looking to make and the local high school in my community was not an option for us. I had heard so many tales about the various local high schools and the lack of administrators and teacher support and involvement so when I heard about Largo ExCEL Program and what it provides, I felt relieved to hear about a program that fosters a learning career educational environment with support and encouragement at all levels. Not only did the ExCEL program live up to my expectations but it fosters such positive communication that has exceeding anything I could have expected.

As an active involved parent, I have found that there has been no question big or small that has not been answered or funneled to the proper person to help me. My daughter is enjoying the project style learning environment, the challenging courses, the support from the teachers and students within the program and last but not least she is excited about doing her career shadowing and contacting those business herself and being involved in the career partnership for a field she may want to pursue for her future. Thanks ExCEL for helping make our transition from middle school that much easier and fostering such a positive learning environment that we are looking to being apart for the next four years.

Maria A. Price

Dominique, Seminole MS

We are so pleased with the ExCEL program at Largo High School. As a parent, I anticipated the big change in the step between middle and high school with dread. However, the ExCEL program seems to be everything it promised. My daughter is thriving, happy and experiencing so many different opportunities. There are no complaints about homework as she is interested and engaged. Working in Tampa, I feel so distanced from my daughter's school life, but with frequent communication from Ms. Howard, Mr. Wolfenden and Ms. Ward I feel like I am included in my daughter's ExCEL experience. I never have to wonder what's going on today or what's coming up. When they say that the ExCEL program is more like family than school, I was skeptical, but the teachers and staff do a great job of making students and parents alike feel appreciated and included. It really is so much more than just a school.

Maria Klein

Amanda, Oak Grove MS

There are many public and private options for high school students; however, in our opinion, none of them compare to the quality education and service received while attending ExCEL. As a parent whose children had attended private school, I was apprehensive about sending my daughter to a public school. This program is phenomenal. In addition to receiving a valuable education, the assistance principal, the secretary and teachers work closely with the students and the parents. This program incorporates leadership skills throughout the curriculum, such as when the students complete magnet wide projects, but it also emphasizes career readiness skills through their career shadowing days. I am highly impressed with this program, the care and support of the staff, and mostly, I'm thrilled to see my daughter learning, both in the classroom, as well as in the community.

Marcie Buchan

Alexis, Home Schooled

I have four children and we have moved around a lot so we have experienced four elementary schools, three middle schools and three high schools in Pinellas County and the ExCEL program is by far the best school any of my kids have gone to. I rave about it to anyone that will listen to me. I love the small school feel and I have never received such great communication from any of the other schools. Ms. Howard is a blessing to this school with all that she does. She and the teachers go above and beyond to help make sure our kids are a success and I couldn't be more grateful. We have already convinced one friend to send their child there this year. I will be sending my son there in two years when he is ready for high school and have been working on his friends parents already as I can't imagine a better opportunity for them in the county.

Angela Meyers

Alexis, Oak Grove MS

In the ExCEL magnet program, you get a private school experience in a public school setting. The teachers take a vested interest in every student and keep the lines of communication open with you whether it's a call to say your student may need a little extra help in a subject or an email just to let you know that your student is doing a great job. I love the fact that I got an email from my son's chemistry teacher to let me know he had gotten a "A" in the class and how proud of him she was. By giving us a list of their personal phone numbers, teachers make sure they available to both students and parents at anytime. I would give the ExCEL program my highest recommendation.

April Batan

China-Jade (2012) & Sam (2011 Summa Cum Laude) *Osceola MS*

I have been extremely pleased with the ExCEL program. I am in the system and realize communication is critical to student success. The teachers are also extremely caring and responsive to all aspects of their students, not just academics.

Laurie Cottrell, Catherine, *John Hopkins MS*

As a parent, I absolutely love ExCEL!! It is challenging my son academically. ExCEL is also providing my son with career choices through Job Shadowing and preparing us for his future by providing vital information such as scholarships and testing dates. Plus, Mrs. Howard rocks with her wonderful emails.

Candace Reed,

Curtis, *Osceola MS*

We have been extremely pleased with the ExCEL Program at Largo High School. As promised at the beginning of the program, the faculty have worked together to provide a very comfortable learning environment for the students. The classes work together on projects and encourage the students to express themselves in various ways, preparing them for college and life. I would highly recommend this program.

Vicki Hawhee

Spencer & Lauren (2011 Graduate), *Largo MS*

I have had two children in the ExCEL Magnet Program at Largo High School. One graduated in 2010 and has gone on to college (majoring in music), and the other is a senior. There are a number of reasons why I would recommend the ExCEL program. One reason is that I think the transition from middle school to high school is easier. The ExCEL teachers and staff are there to help the parents and students feel comfortable with the transition and are very informative. In addition the activities and projects that are part of the course curriculum helps the students learn in a hands on learning environment which is a more exciting way to learn than just doing work from a textbook.

Sara Kemker

Chris & Ashley (2010 Summa Cum Laude), *Largo MS*

I think the ExCEL magnet program is the best one in Pinellas. My daughter is a recent graduate and my son is a senior whom I made sure got into the program because of how well my daughter has done. It keeps me up to date with important school info as well as keeps me informed with my child's grades. I also feel it helps the children prepare for any and all careers when having to work with other people as a team. I will continue praising the program after my children graduate and continue on to college.

Mary D'Angelo

Lauren (2012 Cum Laude) & Christopher, *Largo MS*

My husband and I have had the pleasure of having both our daughters complete their high school experience as students in the ExCEL program. We believe they received an excellent education that was both challenging and fun. We highly recommend the program. Our daughters believe the closeness of the magnet students made their classroom experience more enjoyable. Lydia said "*we're like a family because we spend more time together,*" (having the same students in the same course sections.) Also, and this is most important from the perspective of a parent, our questions and/or concerns have always been addressed. We don't believe there is a situation that could arise that they wouldn't know how to address. A high school magnet program is only as good as its leadership, ExCEL's is A+++++.

Laura & Dan Alejandro-Heather

Laura (2010 Summa Cum Laude)

& Lydia (2011 Summa Cum Laude), *Largo MS*

As the parent of a senior, I can say I have been extremely pleased with the education my daughter has received through the ExCEL program. The teacher interaction is not something you will get at other schools. The unique teaching avenues allow several classes to criss-cross. These are real world skills being taught.

Karen Coultas

Katie Coultas, *Seminole MS*

I highly recommend the ExCEL program at Largo High School. When searching for a high school for him, I knew that I wanted something that suited his learning style and the type of person he is now and will be in the future. We have always offered a well-rounded approach to learning for him, and I knew that he would need that to continue to excel in his education. Since the ExCEL program offers a well-rounded approach to education, I knew this would be the program for

him. There are rules and structure and yet there is the freedom to let the children be responsible for themselves.

Creativity, exploration, group projects, and high standards in academics are just some of the ways that make this program truly enriching for any student. Whatever the child's strengths, whether one or many, this program meets the needs necessary for all students to excel in whatever area of expertise they lean towards. It allows students to research and develop their strengths, build on relationships with others and their community, investigate future career possibilities, and challenge themselves in all areas of academics and the arts. The staff and administration at LHS's ExCEL program has shown an awesome dedication to the students and the organization of the curriculum, events, and opportunities available to all participants. In the ExCEL program, you will find that there is a great relationship between families, students, and faculty that helps make it a such a success.

Lynn Hicks

Gordon (2013 Cum Laude), *Largo MS*

"ExCEL is great because it makes you part of a family." J

Maggie Kivett, (10th grade transfer into ExCEL), *Largo HS*

I love the ExCEL program. The ability to explore career options is a valuable life tool. My daughter knows what she wants to be when she grows up. I'm almost 40 and still have no clue. Thank you ExCEL!

Jennie Devoe

April (2013 Cum Laude), *Oak Grove MS*

The ExCEL magnet program at Largo High School is proving to be much more than I/my family expected. I honestly held my breath, hoped for the best and watched him leave in the dark for Largo High School. The ExCEL teachers are TRULY there for the kids. My son had a career shadow date and in my heart I know it has given him a sense direction and something to strive for as he continues this new journey in life. I have a 6th grader that will DEFINATELY go to the ExCEL program at Largo High School.

Jennifer Turner

"Jimbo" James, *Pinellas Preparatory Academy*

The ExCEL magnet program is the best kept secret in Pinellas County! It's the best education decision we have made was to enroll our daughter in the ExCEL magnet program at Largo High School. The ExCEL magnet staff are dedicated, always reachable and the communication is flawless! I like the standards of expectation, dress code and focus on attendance. The teachers are accessible and willing to provide extra help. The focus on careers and how to present oneself in the work force is valuable information that will help students in the future. The teachers work together. The ice breaking workshops that Griffen took part in on four Wednesdays were a great tool to help incoming students make friends and deal with typical high school issues. ExCEL has the quality of a private school and in many ways is *better!*

Karen Glover

Griffen, *Home Schooled Student*

Graduates

Finally, we hear from our alumni who frequently visit our offices on how happy and proud they are of their education. We commonly hear anecdotes of college professors calling the graduates aside to praise their skills and to inquire where they received their education. We receive compliments at how well prepared they were for college and how well they are doing at school.