**Personalized Learning**

The goal of personalized learning is to truly transform the learning process. The system we have now works for some students, but not for all. We need a system that can be tailored and customized to the individual needs and learning styles of ALL students. We believe that the personalized learning system can help us do that.

Here are the four key elements:

1. Flexible Learning Environments: Staffing, classroom design, and how the class day is structured is developed in order to respond and adapt to support students in achieving their goals. The district is working with a team of architects who are re-imagining the layout and design of our schools to ensure that they help us meet those goals.
2. Competency-Based Progression: Each student’s progress toward clearly defined goals is continually assessed. A student advances and earns credit as soon as he/she demonstrates mastery. This means that those students who have mastered a concept can move on, and those who need more time will get it. Neither student is holding up – or rushing – the other. So in a single classroom there may be one set of students working on advanced reading on computers, while others are meeting to discuss a project and a few others are working one-on-one with a teacher.
3. Learner Profiles: Each student has an up-to-date record of his/her individual strengths, needs, motivation, and goals. Just as important, teachers are given time during the school day to review this information and ensure that each student’s needs are being met. In many cases, teachers are being apprised of their students’ course progress in real time, and can adjust accordingly.
4. Personal Learning Paths: All students are held to clear, high expectations, but each student follows a customized path that responds and adapts based on his/her individual learning progress, motivation, and goals.

Thomas C. Marsh Preparatory Academy will begin personalized learning implementation with incoming 6th graders for the 2015-16 school year and roll up during following school years making us a full personalized learning campus for the 17-18 school year. A typical school day for students will include 3 core classes (Math, Humanities and Pre-AP Science), 2 electives and 1 M.E.N.D. class (Matadors Exploring New Directions). All class periods will be about 75 minutes with our M.E.N.D. class lasting about 45 minutes.

Competency-based progression will be the focus in Humanities and Math, Learning Advisors (teachers) will have 150 minutes of planning time a day, which provides ample opportunity for collaboration between contents and within departments, embedded professional development, and **timely assessment** of student progress toward mastery.

Learning Advisors can quickly adjust instructional strategies for individual students based on progress, or lack thereof, towards mastery through a Learner Management System designed to provide immediate access to student work throughout the day. Students will create and maintain e-portfolios documenting projects and assessments that show mastery to use when applying to high schools and/or colleges.

Thomas C. Marsh Preparatory Academy is excited about bringing Personalized Learning to our campus. This allows us to build an academic structure in which ALL students will be high school ready and college bound by the end of their 8th grade year.