

Tutors with Vision (TV)

Austin Community College

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Tutoring Program: Data Drives Instruction

During our first year (2007-2008), the Tutors with Vision Program worked closely with teachers from **Bedichek Middle School and Crockett High School**. At Bedichek, the student selection criteria was simply scoring very low on the 7th grade mathematics TAKS examination. The Beginning of Year (BoY) benchmark test scores ranged from 0% to 56%, with an average of about 27% mastery. By the time students took the Middle of Year benchmark (MoY), we had worked with the students for a couple of months and the average MoY benchmarks ranged from 6% to 86% with an average of about 40%. Bedichek students taking the math TAKS in April (EoY) scored well (average score had improved to about 63% with 15 of 23 (65.2%) students passing the math TAKS exam and 2 students earned a commended score).

The Crockett initiative began with the priority to work with 10th and 11th grade students with low 9th grade TAKS scores. By early spring, school administrators and teachers asked us to refocus our efforts on at-risk seniors. We did so using a math TAKS practice booklet I designed. Unfortunately, we were not able to receive the final math TAKS data to make any valid conclusions.

For the 2008-2009 school year, we started at **Crockett HS, Bedichek Middle School, and Williams Elementary** around the 3rd week in September.

We were at Crockett on Wednesday, 9-10:30 and 10:40 to 12:10; and Thursday, 1:00-2:30. We worked with Ms. Maria Elena Berra and her TAKS prep classes that consisted almost exclusively of at-risk 12th grade students who had not passed the math TAKS exit level exam the previous year.

We were at Bedichek on Tuesday afternoons (12:30 to 3:25 pm) and Friday mornings (8:00 am to 12:35 pm). We worked with Ms. Nancy Shaer who helped to organize, coordinate, and select students for the TV efforts.

At Williams Elementary, the TVs hooked up with Mr. Peter Gonzales and his 4th grade class. This TV initiative was different than the other two in that the TVs were delegated the role of "tutor" to Mr. Gonzales' 4th grade class assignments. This will change for the upcoming school year.

The results at Bedichek: 60 eighth graders with very low/failing 7th grade TAKS scores (ranging from 0-48%) were selected. By year's end, 46 of 60 students passed (76.7%) had passed the 8th grade math TAKS examination, 2 of which earned a "commended" score. The Bedichek student population consisted of 32 females and 28 males, included 4 special education students (all of the SPED students passed).

The results at Crockett: 32 out of 38 (84.2%) passed by year's end, some with very dramatic improvement. The 6 students who

did not pass expressed a renewed sense of hope, commitment and focus to passing the July '09 math TAKS because they came even closer to passing in May (in most cases less than 3 to 5 test items).

Currently, the TVs will be at Garza most of the summer working with teachers in all core areas and beyond. We have teamed up with Dr. Giao Phan's AAT students. Together, we will do observations, tutor, and teach at Garza. Some Garza teachers have expressed TAKS as a priority (in science and math) while other teachers will use TVs as teaching assistants or student teachers. One TV will be working with the horticulture teacher and team-teaching a summer horticulture class. The first 2 weeks of July began with an intensive TAKS review in most classes and then shifted gears to focus on required class work.

Upcoming training:

TVs train to be able to work with student data and spend valuable time before assessment on student weaknesses while drawing on strengths. We will train teachers in September so that they can learn to analyze TAKS data, write individual "math prescriptions" (weakest to strongest TAKS objectives plan), and implement prescriptions.

Respectfully, Abel Villarreal

Mrs. Shaer's 8th grade Bedichek students have helped teacher trainees by "giving feedback and attending the sessions;"

by "being on my best behavior and doing my work;"

"being myself and speaking my mind;" by

"being respectful;" and "by not giving them a hard time."

Crockett students thanked the TVs and "recommended" TVs to their less fortunate classmates!



Thanks to our Partners!

ACC's Center for Teacher Certification and Associates of Arts in Teaching students and AISD's Bedichek Middle School and Crockett High School completed the second year of the TV program with AISD, adding Williams Elementary. Abel Villarreal, master teacher, coordinates this program and releases data showing great strides.

Based on previous TAKS data, tutors started with short lessons on algebra basics and worked through the packets each week. Topics covered:

- Mathematics Essentials; Evaluating Expressions; Solving Equations; Ratios, Equations, and Proportions; Scientific Notation and Exponents; Percentage; Square Roots; Formulas; Number Patterns & Sequence; Probability; and Trick Questions

Students have enjoyed the extra attention and

one-on-one help that most students need. We have seen a number of AH-HAH! moments and an increase in confidence and ability.

The Tutoring with Vision project continues for the 2009-2010 school year, with continued collaboration with Austin Independent School District (AISD), Austin Partners in Education (APIE), ACC's Associates of Arts (AAT) students, and the Center for Teacher Certification at ACC. This training is vital for incoming teachers and students who fall behind.

We added two TV training sessions at the University of Texas Jumpstart in June, and new interns will assist at Garza High School in July. In addition to math, interns will tutor in science, English, and history. We appreciate these tutors who go over and beyond certification requirements to learn how to deal with students in different surroundings and areas of need.

Thanks to the Teacher Certification teachers who worked with the TV program during the year. Their **650** voluntary hours led to student success at Bedichek, Williams, Garza, and Crockett.

These teachers are ready for their own classroom! Brad, Rolondo, Anita, Mercedes, Amrit, Mr. V, Daniella, Margaret, Lara, and Pam.



Austin Community College began the Teacher Certification Program in 2002. Approved and accredited by the State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC), the Center for Teacher Certification provides training for Alternative Teacher Certification, professional development for teachers and teacher aides, and for child care workers and directors.

Current certifications include: Bilingual Generalist, EC-6 and 4-8; Science and Math Generalists, 4-8; Special Education, EC-12. By District Request only: ASL, Math and Science 8-12.

Contact us: 512.223.7649 or tchrcert@austincc.edu or fax 512.223.7030

Location: Highland Business Center, 5930 Middle Fiskville Road; Austin, TX 78752

Other tutoring opportunities:

- **Spanish-language tutors:** Compañeros en lectura program. To learn how the program aligns with teacher and district objectives. We highly encourage you to attend their training sessions! Contact Tam Vu, Austin Partners in Education, 512.637.0972.
- **Austin Partners in Education** offers training and opportunities for Partners in Reading (2nd grade); Partners in Math (4-10); Partners in Literature (8-10); College Readiness (11-12); Technology (6-8); and mentoring at all levels. Contact Elizabeth McCormick at 512.637.0981.



TRAINING

Tutoring Training is available for \$55, September 19-26.

Email us now for a spot at tchrcert@austincc.edu or call 512.223.7649.

Teaching 101 **online:** learning styles, myths about teaching, jargon, effective communication and eye contact, earning respect and trust from students, praise and rewards, and data collection.

Teaching 201 **face to face at SAC (South Austin Campus)** details the essential part of teaching: Taking students from point A to Point B using data and specific strategies is the difficult part of teaching and learning. This face-to-face training will prepare you for working directly with students.



Lara and Anita work with students at Crockett and University of Texas Jumpstart.

<http://www.austincc.edu/teacher>