St. Andrew High School for Girls
Academic Year Focus 2014-2015

Theme: Children Learn What They Live, Children Live What They Learn

Modus Operandi:
Reflection, Examination, Application, Determination–Moving from Ideas to Implementation

---

For the Academic Year 2014-2015, we will continue under the umbrella theme of **Children Learn What they Live, Children Live What They Learn** as we endeavour to ensure that this student centered approach to education permeates the teaching/learning culture of the institution as reflected through our staff members and by extension our parents and all other adult members of the St. Andrew High School Family. **The focus remains on meeting the needs of the 21st Century Learner through a more interactive and integrated approach to education with emphasis on increased access to and use of Technology.** The Tag Line: Moving from ideas to implementation serves as a reminder that we must be results oriented in all of our efforts. Below are the strategies identified so far which will be employed to assist us in achieving our goals:

1. **CONTINUE THE ROLL OUT OF BYOD BY:**
   a) Identifying additional sources to provide tablets for students who can't afford them.
   b) Improving access to Wifi - entire campus to be wifi enabled by October 2014
   c) Redesigning the Library to facilitate greater use of technology. Stable wifi access and additional computers; new printer.
   d) Continuing teacher training in technology integration
   e) Monitoring the expected/actual percentage of students registering devices:

	20% Expected 2014-2015	**2013-2014 % Actual**
Grade 7	90	78
Grade 8	90	55
Grade 9	75	65
Grade 10	80	55
Grade 11	75	46
Grade 12	70	37
Grade 13	60	47

2. IMPROVE LEVELS OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE AND ACHIEVEMENT

One major concern which resonated during the course of my consultations held with the staff at the end of the year was the Under Performance and Under Achievement of many of our students. Within the context of a high performing school this reality can be easily overlooked as the majority of our students are performing way above national standards consequently there exists very little fear of failure.

Based on the experiences of those who have preceded them, the majority of learners within this success oriented environment are confident that they will perform at a standard that will enable them to matriculate to the tertiary level and this is true. Possibly because of this we find that too many of them are satisfied with mediocrity; satisfied with getting 60 percent when they can get 70 percent or getting 70 percent when they can get 80 percent or getting 80 percent when they can get 90 or 100 percent or the best A in the class, school, country or region.

Comfort is the enemy of initiative and too many of them are comfortable with where they are. They are not prepared to work hard to achieve their best. They love school much more for the friendship and fellowship than for the scholarship. We therefore need to find ways to enable these students to achieve a more balanced perspective on life and so motivate them to aim for the highest.

Strategies to be Employed

a) Continue the Focus on improved Lesson Planning and Delivery of Instruction.

The Principal, Vice Principals and Heads of Department, will spend more time visiting classes and assisting teachers with effective pedagogy,

Our teachers are reminded that we need to ensure that we employ strategies to foster learning independence among our students as many of them expect far too much to be provided by the teacher. In this Information Age, more time needs to be spent on the honing of higher order skills instead of the dissemination of information.

b) Place Major Focus on Behaviour Management and Behaviour Modification.

Students are now presenting with behaviours that teachers are not equipped to cope with and they are getting frustrated and responding emotionally instead of professionally.

Excessive chatter, lack of focus, refusal to do class work and homework, anger, aggression, lack of self-control are some of the behaviours that are coming to the fore. This is compounded by a growing lack of respect for authority hence a teacher's presence does not always result in the immediate response of appropriate behaviour that is expected.

We will therefore be providing training for our staff in Behaviour Management and Behaviour Modification that will provide us with the strategies and equip us with the skills necessary to ensure that a positive learning environment is maintained and that our students are sufficiently challenged so that they will be spurred on to achieve excellence.

3. RATIONALIZATION OF MAJOR EVENTS TAKING PLACE DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR:

a) Evening of Culture to be alternated with Dance Troupe Concert.
b) Walkathon to be alternated with Social Interaction Day.

The intention here is to guard against a "burn out" of energy particularly on the part of the leadership both at the staff and student level. We believe that involvement in co-curricular activity has been a key contributor to the success of our students over the years however too much involvement can prove to be a distraction.

4. FOSTER A STRONGER PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN PARENTS AND TEACHERS SO THAT WE CAN WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT WHAT IS DONE AT SCHOOL IS BEING REINFORCED AT HOME.

a) Communication is to be improved through the implementation of the communication module of EDU365
b) Roll out of the module which provides parents with access to information on homework, tests and student performance on an ongoing basis instead of just at report time.
c) In collaboration with the PTA, encourage greater involvement of parents in school/class activities so that they can be more aware of the challenges and concerns and so be in a more informed position to assist with workable solutions.

The position held by St. Andrew High School for Girls as a trailblazer in the field of Education is one which is well known across Jamaica. Our graduates continue to "stand out as leaders in the society maintaining a tradition of excellence" for which we are highly respected. As we face the challenges to societal norms that impact negatively on our efforts, it is imperative that we work together under the direction of the Lord Jesus so that through His Holy Spirit we can be empowered in this 21st Century to fulfill the mandate prescribed by our mission " To provide a secondary education for our students in a Christian environment".

Sharon Reid
August 22, 2014