



## **Principal's FY 2020 Budget Report**

Tantasqua Regional High School (TRHS) is an institution that is committed to building a community of life-long learners and preparing students for their role as positive and active participants in a democracy. The administration and faculty of Tantasqua are committed to providing quality instruction to our students while maintaining a positive learning community. TRHS continues to have no user fees, and has an incredible amount of extracurricular offerings in athletics, performing arts, and student groups. Data supports the school's emphasis on student participation in these activities, as students are more likely to connect with a mentor that can assist them as they mature. Students have multiple support systems available to them including the Pathways & Drive programs for special needs students, the academic monitoring of students by guidance counselors and teachers, after school hours in the library, academic help sessions and tutoring. The core values, beliefs, curriculum, extracurricular programs, and highly qualified staffing are reflected in this report. This can be seen in the attached copy of our Core Values & Beliefs, which was created during our NEASC self-evaluation from 2013-2015. Several initiatives that are supported by our learning community are described below, and positively impact students from both the academic and technical schools.

### **Academic Support Programs:**

Tantasqua administrators, teachers and counselors do an extensive job tracking and monitoring its at-risk student populations. Beginning freshmen year, in coordination with a dedicated freshmen counselor, students are monitored for academic success from the first day they enter our building. In addition to this, guidance counselors work with teachers in placing at-risk student on bi-weekly progress reports so that students stay on track for graduation. These efforts, supported in this budget, have resulted in TRHS having one of the lowest dropout rates in the state of Massachusetts, annually now below one percent.

Some of the aspects of the Academic Support Program that have proved to positively impact our students include:

- Instituting a mandatory help session program and Saturday School program aimed at holding students accountable for incomplete work that prevents them from failing classes
- Increased communication with Parents and Guardians including bi-weekly progress reports from guidance.
- Student-teacher ratio remains at a manageable level to ensure high quality instruction in a supportive environment.

- Encouraging all freshmen to become invested in the school community by becoming members of at least one athletic team, music group or club.

In addition to these supports, this budget funds the high school faculty's goal of spending professional development time working at incorporating Social Emotional Learning (SEL) strategies into their lessons so that we are better supporting the whole child in the classroom. SEL skills help students become more self-aware of their strengths, the ability to self-regulate emotions and behaviors, as well as learn how to navigate and improve social relationships.

### **Extracurricular Activities:**

Thanks in large part to our budgetary commitments; Tantasqua Regional High School continues to offer a wide variety of extracurricular offerings in athletics, performing arts and more than 50 clubs at no cost to families. These can be seen annually with our award winning Showchoirs on stage, the Marching Band in parades, or our athletic teams in state playoff games at UMass! However, we insist that these extracurricular activities be balanced with the understanding that academics are the priority and that civic involvement is encouraged. For example, all staff understands that student-athletes must attend needed academic help sessions before having a team practice. In addition, each team participates in some type of community service activity each year. Some examples of recent community service projects include team hosting free youth clinics and "Youth Nights" where any children are admitted to games free if they wear Green & Gold and are allowed onto the field to welcome the varsity teams before games. Our volleyball and lacrosse teams coordinate with local youth groups in hosting an annual "Coaches Against Cancer" nights. Our football team annually assists in the landscaping and clean-up at the senior centers and public buildings. We have over 50 clubs and activities, many of which perform community service annually including: Be Good to People. Relay for Life, Recycling Club, and Project Purple.

### **AP Classes:**

Over the past 10 years, the building principal and curriculum supervisors have promoted increasing the number of Advanced Placement (AP) course offerings as well as increasing the number of students enrolled in AP courses. Last year, due to student demand, we added AP Music Theory to our course selections, giving us a total of fourteen AP courses. These courses are offered in an effort to challenge students, to provide rigorous academic opportunities, and in an effort to help our student body gain admission to more competitive colleges and universities as well as increasing the chances for academic grants and/or scholarships. There is no question that today's competitive colleges and universities expect our students to have enrolled in AP classes. This budget continues to support this initiative. The results have proved positive as the Class of 2018 was awarded approximately 140 scholarships from 75 different organizations. In addition, the qualifying number of AP scores has increased dramatically. According to Mass Insight, our AP Calculus scores are again the best in the state. More importantly, students seem more willing to stretch their abilities in more challenging courses knowing that they will receive individualized attention in manageable class sizes.

	<u>2014-2015</u>	<u>2015-2016</u>	<u>2016-2017</u>	<u>2017-2018</u>	<u>2018-2019</u>
<u>AP Course</u>	<u>Enrolled (Tested)</u>	<u>Enrolled (Tested)</u>	<u>Enrolled (Tested)</u>	<u>Enrolled (Tested)</u>	<u>Enrolled</u>
English Lit & Comp	60 (38)	52 (25)	56 (23)	30 (14)	24
English Lang & Comp	115 (109)	155 (127)	109 (82)	127 (106)	126
US History	50 (50)	42 (40)	34 (34)	59 (58)	45
Environ. Science	45 (35)	68 (39)	46 (31)	38 (24)	65
Calculus AB	17 (14*)	24 (21)	21 (19)	25 (14)	27
Biology	45 (36)	50 (46)	33 (29)	34 (27)	47
Spanish	n/a	n/a	0 (1)	0 (1)	0
Chemistry	22 (20)	24 (22)	23 (21)	36 (24)	15
Comp Government	22 (19)	42 (22)	18 (10)	14 (12)	31
Psychology	49 (31)	48 (27)	47 (36)	26 (15)	33
Computer Science	6 (6)	9 (7)	13 (12)	7 (7)	12
Statistics	27 (24)	50 (45)	45 (40)	30 (29)	61
Physics 2	21 (19*)	19 (13*)	13 (7)	32 (7)	17
VHS AP Courses	45	5	5 (3)	5 (2)	0
Music Theory	1	1	0	8 (4)	4
<b><u>Total AP Enrollment</u></b> <b><u>(# tested)</u></b>	<b>479 (407)</b>	<b>584 (440)</b>	<b>463 (335)</b>	<b>469 (355)</b>	<b>517</b>

### **Conclusion:**

Tantasqua prides itself on providing its students with a variety of programs and opportunities, with our greatest mission being that of ensuring that our students have many pathways to success upon graduation. Tantasqua is an academic, civic, and social community that thrives on providing all students the opportunity to succeed in an environment that is safe and supportive. With the current initiatives such as increased AP enrollment, curriculum re-writes, the Academic Support Program, and extra-curricular activities, budget support will allow us to keep moving progressively forward. This budget allows this institution the ability to fully prepare all of its students for their future colleges and careers.