

The Reading Writing Center at University High School

What is the Reading & Writing Center? The Reading & Writing Center (RWC) is a reading and writing resource on campus. One side of the center is a classroom demonstration space where Lee Ann Spillane offers whole class instruction to teachers and their students. The other side of the center is a help center run by and for students. The RWC also sponsors several special events: a school-wide writing contest, a college essay writing night, and a Poetry Jam.

What will the Reading and Writing Center offer *our* students?

First, the Reading & Writing Center provides whole class instruction. Teachers may schedule their classes in the classroom side of the center for specific reading or writing modules with Ms. Spillane. Extended reading lessons can last up to four weeks and will involve Ms. Spillane co-teaching a young adolescent or classic piece of literature with a content area teacher.

Second, the RWC provides one-on-one reading or writing help to students on a walk-in or by appointment basis. Students can schedule up to an half hour of individual feedback, and coaching to improve reading or writing skills. These sessions are conducted by trained tutors and volunteers who staff the Center. The tutors working in the Center have been trained to help our students meet the demands of the FCAT reading and writing assessments, the reading and writing demands of the teachers at University High School and most importantly the literacy demands of the twenty first century.

What are the goals of the RWC?

The Reading Writing Center has several goals. We hope it will be more than a place that students can receive feedback on essays or practice for the FCAT. We hope it will be a place that build assets in students and truly encourage in them a passion for life long learning.

The following are long term goals of the RWC:

For Students	For Faculty
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a caring and encouraging school environment • Develop a strong bond between students and school • Give students useful roles in our academic community • Develop empathy, friendship and communication skills • Develop personal responsibility in students • Motivate and interest students in literacy • Engage students in reading and writing • Develop reading and writing enjoyment • Improve students FCAT reading scores • Improve students FCAT writing scores 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide faculty with embedded professional development • Encourage and develop peer coaching relationships between and among faculty • Provide reading strategy instruction and support to content teachers • Encourage and support teachers as they infuse writing across the curriculum • Encourage and develop a culture of reading and writing among the faculty

The following are the *Language Arts Sunshine State Standards* that frame the work of the RWC

- ✓ The student uses the reading process effectively. (LAA 1.4)
- ✓ The student constructs meaning from a wide range of texts. (LAA 2.4)
- ✓ The student uses the writing process effectively. (LAB 1.4)
- ✓ The student writes to communicate ideas and information effectively. (LAB 2.4)
- ✓ The student uses speaking strategies effectively. (LAC 3.4)