Learning outcomes:

• Brainstorm a program connecting high school students with elementary students to encourage a college-going culture.
• Access resources to use during classroom presentations.
• Encourage alternative pathways while in high school, such as CTE & dual enrollment courses.
Gorham, Maine

Gorham High School

- 875 Students
- 70 teachers, 40 support staff
- 95% daily attendance rate
- 15% of students receive free or reduced lunch
- 17% of students receive Special Education services
- 55% of students participate in athletics, 75% in extra-curricular programs
Gorham High School

- 8% of students fail a course
- 25% of students take one or more AP courses
- Less than 1% of students drop-out (compared to 2.29% state average)
- 93% of students graduate (compared to 86.45% state average)
- 55% of students go to 4-year college, 18% to a 2-year college

We have a pretty good school.
Good is the enemy of great. And that is one of the key reasons why we have so little that becomes great. We don’t have great schools, principally because we have good schools.

–Jim Collins

ASPIRATIONS:
GOOD TO GREAT
MELMAC EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Stands for... Maine Educational Loan Marketing Corporation

Is a... Private, Non-profit

Mission is... To increase college enrollment of Maine students

Grant was for... $63,000 over 5 years

FOCUSING ON FUTURE STORIES

Future Story Day
College Visits
Speaker Series
FASFA Help Nights
Job Shadows & Internships
How do you foster aspirations for your students?

How do you celebrate your student’s future stories?

CELEBRATING FUTURE STORIES

How can we harness this powerful moment?

To foster ongoing K-12 Aspirations
RELATIONSHIPS

ADOPT-A-CLASSROOM

General Planning:

Who: Identify high school students

What: GHS students visit Great Falls Elementary School

When: Determine number of visits and dates

How: Arrange transportation, train students
THE THREE VISITS

1. High School Students Teach “Career Lessons”
2. Assembly to present “A Day in the Life” Vlog
3. Career Fair

OUR LEARNING

Relationships, Relationships, Relationships
Not just between kids but between schools...
Everyone gets excited about elementary-high school connections.

We need more high school students... but high school students are very busy.
Teachers like a lot of advance notice

Foster innovative ideas...
have elementary students shadow high school students
OUR LEARNING

Difficult to sustain innovation...
So take care of your people & celebrate them

ASPIRE GORHAM GRANT

- Collaboration with early childcare providers around aspirations
- Expanding Adopt-a-Classroom to all school in Gorham
- Hire a Career and Community Coordinator to help create field experiences for all students in Gorham, workplace learning experiences for high school students
- Increasing dual enrollments and early-college opportunities for juniors and seniors
Thank you!

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