Creating a Post Secondary Culture

Webinar Presenter: Christy Welch, School Counselor, Mabel School, Watauga County, NC

Webinar Date: 11/4/2019

Learning outcomes:

After viewing this webinar you will be able to:
• Create a plan for your school that promotes success.
• Train your faculty and staff on changing the culture schoolwide.
• Create lessons and activities for the new school year.
What I Learned

- The Promise to Prepare
- Paper doesn’t always translate to Post Secondary
- Keep to the mission and vision
- ALL kids can succeed with the right team and guidance
- School Counselors have the biggest EOG of all - LIFE

WHY?

Predictors for Post Secondary Success:

**ELEMENTARY:**

- Being rated highly by teachers on **attention span and classroom participation**
- High scores on the **Social Skills** Rating System

**MIDDLE SCHOOL:**

- Taking **rigorous coursework** in the middle grades
- High scores on the Grit-S and Grit-O scales
- **Social-Emotional and Decision Making Skills**
WHY?

Predictors for Post Secondary Success:

**High School:**

**FAFSA Completion**

College Knowledge target outreach programs such as: multiyear college-readiness programs, embedded college counseling, and college-readiness lessons

Few school transfers between grades

**Early Assessment Program (EAP) and Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) completion**

---

**Unemployment rates and earnings by educational attainment, 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Attainment</th>
<th>Unemployment Rate (%)</th>
<th>Median Usual Earnings ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral degree</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1,825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional degree</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1,884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s degree</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1,494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>1,198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate’s degree</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college, no degree</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school diploma</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than a high school diploma</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>553</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 3.2%  All workers: $932

HOW? BUY IN!

- Administrator
  - Share the ASCA Mindsets, Create a Mission and Vision, Management Agreement
- Teachers
  - Plan a PD session, share the research, show how is supports what they are doing
- The Students
  - Start a Post Secondary Club/ Choose a diverse group

COUNSELORS

- Ask to find time to collaborate with the counselors of your feeder schools
- Plan events where the older students have the opportunity to mentor or collaborate with the younger students
- Share valuable information
“HOME” Makeover

- Walk around your school and take notes of where there are post secondary messages
- If there are none find a few places to makeover
  - College Corner (Media Center)
  - Bulletin boards (Crayons to College)
  - Teacher identifiers

EXAMPLES

College/Career Corner

Bulletin Boards
Start with a one week event

- College Application Week (announced in the Summer) - usually in November
- FAFSA Day - October 1st
- National College Signing Day - In April/May
- Back to School Rally

Reach Higher Rally
GAMES and ACTIVITIES

Jenga: (K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 leveled questions created by students)

GPA GAME

College Knowledge Bowl

---

Book Club

Met with 8th graders during lunch.
Students chose the stories to read.
Read out loud while they ate and discussed
ADOPT AN ALUMNI

- Reach out to your feeder high school for students attending 2 & 4 year schools, military, technical schools, OR starting their own business (ie Stylist)
- Email those students to see if they would like to be adopted for a class in your school
- They are adopted by the teachers and will stay with them throughout giving them another adult mentor
- Invite them to an “adoption celebration” where they will sign their adoption papers along with the class.

ADOPT AN ALUMNI CONT..

- August: Send cards to decorate their room with positive thoughts
- September: Send Coffee ☕
- October: Halloween Candy **Set up Skype Session
- November: A gift card to grocery store
- December: Christmas decorations/Exam survival kit
- January: Cookie Mix and Cocoa
- February: Valentines **Set up Skype or classroom visit
- March: St. Patricks Day Décor or We are so lucky to know you cards
- April: Easter Candy
- May: Exam Survival Kit
COLLEGE PEN PALS

Works well with writing curriculum, teaches letter writing, makes a connection with a college student, makes college concrete

Cons: Money for postage, need to preview letters, absences, time to write, can’t always control the time the letters come in

COLLEGE PEN PALS CONT...

- Make a connection with a professor at a local University/ One class, preferably education majors
- Go visit the college class that you will be pen paling with
- Do a classroom lesson with the class that will be pen paling to go over rules
- Assign Pen Pals
- Have the kids write their letters and deliver the first ones in person
- Set up a time with the classroom teacher to do the letter writing
EXAMPLE

COLLEGE FAIR

- Works well with 4th-8th Graders
- Students get to research colleges, works well with ELA classes, fits with 4th grade NC curriculum, feel a connection to a University, can be a good mentor project, good project for after EOGs
- Important to do several lessons on college vocabulary and how to research a college
● Have students write down their top three career or college choices
● Assign students their Post Secondary school
● If you use this as a mentor project assign mentors
● At least 3 classes for them to research
● At least 2 classes for them to put together their displays
● One class on how to present their school
● Have them practice “elevator” speech to their classmates
● Have your fair!
EXAMPLES
COLLEGE TALK WALK
College Book Tour

- Free, Reading connection
- You do need to have the books
- Choose the kids to read the books
- Email teachers to see who is interested
- Schedule book tour

Suggested Books: Malia the Mouse Goes to College, When I Grow Up I’m Going to College
How Santa Got His Job

- Curriculum Connection, Discuss skills needed for a specific job
- Need to make sure the real Santa is available
- Read “How Santa Got His Job” and talk about his skills
- What classes would Santa need to take?
- For the older kids have them make a model of a college at the North Pole (Can use Minecraft Edu if you have it)
- Contact Santa (Make sure to let Santa know you’ve read the book)
CAREER CAFÉ

- During lunch so doesn’t take extra class time, easier than doing a whole day career day
- Survey the students to see what types of careers they would like to hear about (can be informal)
- Reach out to community members to schedule one cafe a month (you could also contact your local Chamber).
- Advertise the Career Cafes OR invite specific students based on what their interest inventory says
- Limit it to no more than 25 students
**President’s Day Panel**

- Invite local university and community college President’s/Chancellors to sit on a panel
- Have students research panelist ahead of time
- Ask students to write down questions on notecards – Check them first!
- Student’s serve as moderators

**INTERNATIONAL DAY**

Allows students to talk about international travel, gives them a different perspective on the World

- Contact your local University to see if they have International Student Outreach program
- Schedule the International Day (have classes rotate)
- Have a class, club, or PTA host a hospitality room
Christy Welch
welchc@wataugaschools.org
828-266-2043
FB: Mabel School Counseling Program
@Mabel_SC
https://counselingthatpops.wordpress.com/