

High School Matters

Roosevelt Middle School
Red Lodge, MT

Recognition of Need

- To combat a negative mindset about the need for high school completion/ diploma
- To educate students about different educational opportunities beyond high school
- To mitigate early warning signs of educational failure--attendance issues, tardies, grades, family make-up, economic status, transience, retention. (GEMS data and SAT meetings)

Program Goals

- Identify focus group of 8th graders and provide an environment to build awareness of and confidence in their ability to succeed in high school
- Facilitate a smooth transition from middle school to high school
- Facilitate connections with student leaders, mentors, and high school staff prior to entering high school
- Build and encourage self-esteem so that students become self-advocates in educational decisions
- Create educational and career connections

Action Plan

- Extend an invitation to identified students to join HSM leaders for an informal pizza party and group introduction to program goals and activities
- Meet weekly during lunch to “check in” and participate in activities designed to build cohesiveness and trust and further program goals.
- Meet as needed in small groups to gather feedback and input about program direction--student feedback drove leaders' decisions about future activities
- Evaluate successes/failures of program at the conclusion of the school year
- Celebrate success!

Packing for High School

- Academic planning and scheduling
- Building tour
- Staff introductions--principal, secretary, school counselor
- Student forums
 - Q and A
 - Activities and athletics
 - Academic expectations

Career Exploration

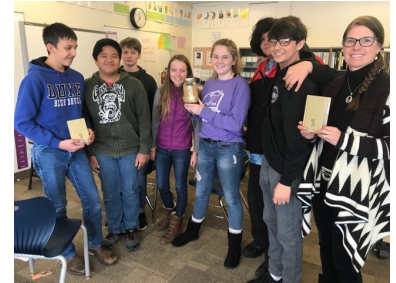
- Interest and personality surveys
- Discussion of possible career options based on survey results
- Career fair held at RLHS
- Workplace social skills, appropriate dress, and behavior practice
- Job shadowing
- Follow-up discussion--Was the job well matched to your interests?
Positives and negatives of the experience?
- Job shadowing mentors--school connections



Career Connections



Celebration



Follow-Up: What's next?

- Challenges--students, funding, time, scheduling,
- Leadership turnover
- Program continuation in high school--staffing, funding, scheduling, academic support/accountability

Contact Information

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