

## CALIFORNIA GEAR UP

### Debrief with CSP Leadership Team 2008-2009

#### School: Happy Valley

Leadership Teams Reflect on the plans for the year (sustainability and communication) and what has been accomplished. *Reflecting on the plans we had for the year, and what we have done:*

#### 1) What do we want to celebrate?

- We got a lot accomplished with a common focus
- Jr High Monday elective to discuss test scores was really effective and setting some life and school goals
- How they could take accountability for their achievement came through from the teachers to the students and the students really stepped into it more fully
- Showing the students how to be responsible for their behavior when it comes to learning and preparing for the tests
- March madness went really well - researching the colleges, math lessons and stuff in the lab around it
- Opened up different avenues of communication around schools
- Our system of organization - binders for the students work and holding them accountable for their binders and next year we'll continue with it and then bring it to 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> as well
- Supplemental counseling during PE and taught the kids how to monitor their work and then how to create a plan with the information they get to continue moving forward successfully
- Getting the GU stuff engrained in everything that we're doing and incorporating all the tools more effectively
- There is more of a unified message across the staff and what the kids are hearing/getting
- The kids were more results oriented this year instead of just going through the motions of the test taking (enduring it)
- Collective ownership in achievement and helping each other to be raised up
- Changing our way of thinking about the issues to get different solutions
- I feel the most positive about this year as we chipped away at our goals and have accomplished a lot ☺ - Janet

#### 2) What do we want to do *more of*?

- Goal setting to begin earlier in the first few weeks of school and then share these goals with the parents
- Student lead conferences and share their data and goals with the parents
- Adopt a college early on
- We can do everything better and sooner

#### 3) What do we want to do *less of*?"

- Refine what we're doing but not take on anything new - tweaking the timing of things so we have enough time to get through it all

### What do you consider your accomplishments this year as a Leadership Team?

- The group is more cohesive, on the same page, using a strong plan
- We were the cheer leaders for a lot of the efforts which got the rest of the staff excited
- Having a one day a week collaboration time has been really wonderful
- There aren't any 'kingdoms' here so it makes it easier to communicate across the teachers

### What were your challenges?

- College adoption implementations
- Getting things implemented more strongly in the younger students so when they do get to 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade they are more aware of the process
- Getting time on campus (Pam)
- Resetting expectations with the kids and between schools

### What would you like to focus on next year (2009-2010) as a CSP School?

- Talk with kids more about what it's going to take to attend school - how are they going to pay for it etc. so they can get the most out of their high school years and take the right classes to get to where they want to go to school
- Looking now as to what they need to be involved with (extra curricular/community activities) so they can apply for scholarships
- Refine the binder use, our goal setting and community service
- Creating greater awareness in students of themselves and each other -

### Other

- Using the sustainability plan was a good tool to help us hone in on what we needed to focus on while also hearing from the different schools and their great ideas - borrowing ideas and then making them better.
- It's a great accountability tool as well.
- We'll probably bring one more LT member on board next year so they have extra help as needed

"Don't tell me you believe all children can learn,  
Tell me what you do when they don't" -- DuFour

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True Colors personality assessment?? What is this and how might we use it with other schools?

**What can we be doing better from Gear Up?**

We feel supported 😊

What dates are NOT good for you next fall?

So the week of Oct 5<sup>th</sup> is parent/teacher conference