

CALIFORNIA GEAR UP

Debrief with CSP Leadership Team 2008-2009

School: Maywood

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?

- March madness college competition - it was 4 weeks of work and activities and it will also carry us through another 4 weeks of daily announcements about each of the colleges - we had 29 teachers who participated out of 31
- The teachers really liked the whole process and would like to add some more trivia pieces to it
- The banquet we had for the kids who received the scholarships for the winners - dinner for the kids and two guest tickets and their were “dignitaries” who came and other folks could come as well - the superintendent was there
- We had the child and the parents come up to receive their scholarship in front of everyone
- The kids who applied for the scholarship all got to go to Berkeley and St. Mary’s college tour
- They even got a write up in the newspaper and the woman who wrote the article said she’s never seen anything like this in any middle school
- The kids are really excited about applying next year and teachers are bringing their kids to go to school here from other schools
- There is a cohesiveness with the staff that really made this happen
- One of the teachers made shirts for all of her kids and they LOVED it and wear their Duke shirts all the time
- It created a Lot of momentum so next year will be even bigger and better
- They were able to get a ton of free stuff from the different schools by calling and asking for buttons pendants etc.
- We eliminated the school leadership team and have the entire staff sit in on meetings to get their input and buy-in - there is trust in the room and consistency in the leadership
- College visits with and without GU support - it’s become a part of the culture here
- Each teacher from the LT when presenting the scholarships gave tidbits about why kids can go to college and what is required

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

- Get more involved with the community and the parent pieces - more publicity and getting the parents more involved
- Letting the parents know what to help their kids with and what they need to accomplish to actually go to college
- Infusing more college in more venues more frequently throughout the school year

- Have a football fall college focus and other ideas during different months of the year
- Have different classrooms focus on a career and research it in addition to the career day that they do in the fall for 8th graders

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

- Less wait time - go slow to go fast...this really felt like our kick off year for GU

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

- We collaborated really well and were able to get a lot done
- Once our “person” was gone who was helping us with a lot of these pieces the leadership team really took ownership of the process and it’s excelled
- Planning - we got all the meetings on the calendar right away so it was on the books
- Within a week after the CSP meeting we all met again to make sure that we implemented the plans we came up with. This is the most important time to do this so we capture all the great ideas that we heard from other schools
- The ability to plan lead to the cohesiveness of the staff

What were your challenges?

- Getting stuff on the 25 foot banners - listing all of the schools - we had to use the cherry pickers to get the info up there.

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

- Increasing the talk - more with parents - more with the public - more activities that are college oriented and making sure that we prioritize budgets and time to meet this initiative
- Tweaking what we did and making it better and extending it throughout the school year and mixing it up for each of the different grade levels so next year the kids have different things to look forward to
- 6th grade A-G requirements
- 7th look at community colleges
- 8th grade have career day

Other

- This has been the best semester for GU ever
- The teacher have taken ownership of it
- **Can we get a copy of your “Rule Book and timeline/budget” for how you created your March Madness so we can share it with other schools?

“Don’t tell me you believe all children can learn,
Tell me what you do when they don’t” -- DuFour

Attended: Vance and Michele

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What can we be doing better from Gear Up?

We feel supported ☺