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MS/HS Principal Board Report

Community Engagement and Long-Term Impact of a High School Career, Skill, and College Expo

A High School Career, Skill, and College Expo is more than a single-day event; it is a strategic initiative that strengthens community partnerships while creating lasting opportunities for students and supporting long-term regional workforce development. By bringing together students, families, educators, local businesses, trade organizations, and postsecondary institutions, the expo connects education directly to real-world opportunities and community needs.

Creating Long-Term Impact

The long-term value of a career expo lies in the sustainable opportunities it creates. Consistent collaboration between schools and community partners can lead to internships, job shadowing experiences, mentorship programs, and work-based learning opportunities. Over time, these partnerships establish a local talent pipeline that prepares students to enter the workforce with relevant skills and professional connections.

Students who engage with local industries develop a stronger understanding of career possibilities within their own communities, increasing the likelihood that they remain connected to or return to the region after completing further education or training. This contributes to workforce stability and supports local economic growth.

Additionally, hosting an annual expo fosters a culture of career readiness within the school. Students begin planning for life after graduation earlier, make more purposeful academic choices, and see clear connections between their education and future goals. The event becomes a signature experience that strengthens school identity, promotes community pride, and demonstrates a commitment to preparing students for success beyond high school.

Conclusion

A High School Career, Skill, and College Expo strengthens relationships between schools and communities while creating lasting systems that support student success and regional workforce development. By connecting education with real-world opportunities, the expo promotes informed decision-making, community investment, and sustainable pathways for future generations.

***Attached: First draft of planning document for the event*

"Inspire life-long learners. Build Character. Prepare them for their future."

We met with Chamber representatives early in February to begin planning a collaborative college/career/skill expo. We are in the planning stages; this document is a draft but it gives an idea of what we are planning.

College/Career/Skills Expo: May 1st

Name of Breakout Session	Person Facilitating Session	Location/Room
Meditation Class/ Coping with Life's Stress	Larissa- up to 20 students	
Car Know-How (tire changing, jump-starting with cables, change oil) **Hands On Activity	Mr. Dethlefs- 10 students at a time	Circle Drive
Easy recipes in the dorm/ on the go **Hands On Activity	Mrs. Peters? 20 students at a time	Foods Room
Writing thank You Notes Like a PRO (bring a mailing address with you)		**Auditorium- one full grade level at a time
Perfecting interviewing skills/ body language, common questions	A business leader who regularly interview employees	
Basic money management/ writing a check/how interest works	- 25 students	
Email etiquette, workplace communication, and how to talk to supervisors	- 25 students	
Practice Interview Skills with Business Leaders/ and receive feedback	-10 adults/ 30 students	Library Stations
Leadership Skills for any career	Dr. Willert?	
Mock workplace scenarios (solving real world problems in teams)	Community business leader (up to 20 students)	
Your Reputation Starts Now: Digital Footprint and Professionalism	Mrs. Damm?	
The joy of traveling and learning about other cultures	Mrs. Danks? Mrs. Lorang? 25 students	

	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
8:30-8:55	Thank you, Notes in Auditorium,	Break out 1	Break out 1	Career walk-through in gym
9:00-9:30	Career walk-through in the gym	Thank you notes in auditorium	Breakout 2	Break out 1
9:35-10	Break-out Session 1	Career walk through in gym	Thank you notes in auditorium	Break out 2
10:05-10:30	Break-out 2	Break out 2	Career walk-through in gym	Thank you notes in auditorium
10:35-11	Break-out 3	Break out 3	Break out 3	Break out 3

Benefits of the High School E-Sports Program

The implementation of our new high school e-sports program has already demonstrated meaningful academic, social, and engagement benefits for students. While e-sports is often viewed primarily as recreational gaming, structured school-based programs provide students with opportunities to develop teamwork, communication, problem-solving skills, and school connectedness in ways that mirror traditional extracurricular activities.

Increasing Student Engagement and School Connection

One of the most significant early outcomes of the e-sports program has been increased student engagement and attendance. Extracurricular opportunities play a critical role in helping students feel connected to school, and e-sports has provided an avenue for students who may not traditionally participate in athletics or activities.

Notably, two students who are now consistent participants and successful competitors in e-sports previously struggled with chronic truancy and lacked motivation to attend school. Since joining the program, both students have demonstrated improved attendance and a renewed sense of purpose. Their desire to participate, practice, and represent the school has created a meaningful incentive to be present and engaged in their education.

This example highlights how diverse extracurricular offerings can reach students whose interests may not align with traditional programs, reinforcing the importance of providing multiple pathways for student involvement.

Development of Transferable Skills (these are also linked to our POG attributes)

Participation in organized e-sports promotes skills that directly transfer to academic and career readiness, including:

- Team collaboration and strategic planning
- Communication and leadership skills
- Critical thinking and problem-solving
- Digital citizenship and responsible technology use
- Goal setting and perseverance

Students must work cooperatively, analyze performance, and adapt strategies...skills aligned with workforce expectations in many modern industries.