



Medford Public School
ISD #763

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Christopher J. Ovrebo, Principal
DATE: December 23, 2014
RE: MHS Mindsets for Success

Research indicates that by 2018, more than 70% of all jobs in Minnesota will require some post-secondary certification. It is our responsibility to prepare all of our students to succeed in college and gain the education after high school they will need to get a job. We must create a sense of urgency within our students and expect them to go to college. We must also stress that college means any post-secondary certification, from 1-year vocational certificates and apprenticeships to 4-year university degrees. We must create a “college going culture” at Medford High School.

Objective: In order to prepare all of our students to succeed in their post-secondary plans, we need to teach students interpersonal skills and create learning habits that will increase their chances of success after high school. Together we have identified 8 skills or habits that will increase our student’s chances for post-secondary success. We call these skills the “MHS Mindsets for Post-Secondary Success”.

Persistence: Learning requires effort. As you build new knowledge and understandings of the world, you will encounter obstacles. Not everything will be easy and you need to stay focused on your goals and the benefit that learning will give you for the rest of your life.

Excellence: Take pride in your work, your school, and yourself. Don’t settle for less than the best and don’t put forth anything less than your best effort every day. You never know when you will need something you are learning today and we don’t want you to miss an opportunity because you weren’t doing your best work.

Listen and communicate with understanding: Put yourself in someone else’s shoes when interacting with others. Know that what you say, what you type, and what you do to others affects them. Strive to have a positive influence on all of those around you.

Create, imagine, innovate, be flexible: The number #1 skill that future employers are looking for when they hire is problem solving. Can you be given a task and use the tools you have to come up with a new and effective solution?

Curiosity: Approach each day with an attitude to learn as much as you can. Ask questions, search for data, and look to apply what you are learning to new problems. Never stop learning.

Managing impulsivity: Take your time. Strive for accuracy. Don't say the first thing that comes to your head, sit back and think before you respond. Make sure everything you do and say reflects the best person you can be today.

Be present: Engage your teachers and fellow students in class. Eliminate distractions and focus on the task at hand. Use what you learn and apply it to new situations. The more you engage in learning and use what you have learned, the longer you will remember it.

Work together: Teamwork is something that everyone will do in their future jobs. Those that can operate smoothly in a group setting and can be accountable to others will find much more success in life. Learn together and learn from others.

Adapted from [Discovering & Exploring Habits of Mind](#), by Arthur L. Costa and Bena Kallick. - Alexandria, VA: ASCD. © 2000 by ASCD. Adapted with permission. Learn more about ASCD at www.ascd.org.

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Christopher J. Ovrebo
Principal
Medford High School
c_ovrebo@medford.k12.mn.us
507.214.6302