

## **COLLEGE GOING CULTURE**

### **Proposed Strategies and Activities:**

- On designated days, all staff wear college memorabilia such as t-shirts, sweatshirts, etc. of their alma mater
- Staff post the name of their alma mater in or outside their classroom
- The teaching staff regularly speak to students about their educational journey
- Students have opportunities to interview staff about their educational journey
- Teachers guide students in creating individual or group displays such as posters, books, or bulletin boards on their college and career aspirations
- Teachers create visuals or bulletin board displays of their educational journeys and post them around the school where students can read them
- School posts a banner at the entrance of school that communicates their commitment to a college-going culture
- Have common planning time for content or grade specific teachers
- Create professional learning communities where teachers review disaggregated data on a regular basis to make informed educational decisions
- Teachers maintain high expectations for all students through their actions and words
- Students develop and share their postsecondary plans with their family, friends, community, and others
- Students are enrolled in the Oklahoma's Promise Scholarship Program
- Students are encouraged to enroll in rigorous courses and information about these courses is shared with their parents
- Provide professional development regarding strategic thinking
- Provide professional development to entire staff regarding the use of data to drive curriculum and district/school decisions
- Create a parent organization all every school level
- Have an essay contest based on college essay questions
- Students develop and share their postsecondary plans with their family, friends, community, and others
- Provide parent training on the college application process and financial aid opportunities
- E-Mentoring program with a college student
- Students hear consistent college going message from K-12
- College door decorating contest
- Have younger students follow current high school seniors with their college selection process this spring and into next year (through letters, emails, visits). Hint: Great way to start a mentoring program
- Plan a college road trip; include a map and route, budget, where would you visit and why
- Fill out a college application and then set goals to fill the gaps on the application
- Have older students write a captivating children's book that touches on the college application and admissions process
- Have Scholars write to colleges to get catalogues, admission videos, and/or gear.
- Think into the future by writing a letter home from college describing the experience
- Research the colleges attended by people who come up in class studies or discussions
- Ensure that all students can take home a picture of themselves on a college campus
- Decorate classroom doors in college colors

- Visit a college campus as a class
- Have college students/professors/president visit the school
- Have teachers talk about their college experience at the beginning of class
- Watch an admissions video together
- Have a college gear day (wear hats, shirts)
- Display teacher diplomas in the front hall
- Have a bulletin board displaying high school seniors that were accepted into colleges
- Mark a road map and label colleges
- Look at campus maps and compare colleges from maps
- Brainstorm a list of as many colleges as you can think of without asking others
- Look up colleges on the web with mentors
- Conduct a college survey
- Make a packing list of everything to take to college
- Collect pictures of teachers when they were in college and make a teacher college face book; find interesting facts, college info, and neat stuff to include
- Attend a college sporting event
- Visit a college library to do homework
- Buy supplies at the college bookstore to use as class prizes
- Plan and do a math scavenger hunt on a college campus
- Research about different majors
- Have a school-wide college trivia question each day
- Look at college recycling programs
- Make a list to compare middle school and/or high school to college
- Make a list of dream jobs/careers and look at the level of education needed
- Display college banners/pennants
- Find out how certain colleges were started and when
- Look at creative ways to pay for college
- Meet a college professor or perhaps have the professor visit class
- Have high school seniors talk to younger students about their college search
- Make a list of different kinds of colleges (two-year, four-year, public, private); find examples of each and how they differ
- Meet an admissions person to learn about the process
- Interview teachers/parents/community adults/mentors about their college experiences
- Have a school-based college fair with local alums representing their alma mater
- Hold a financial aid workshop night for parents and students who need assistance filling out applications and forms. Have computers available and offer a free dinner. Get other students to offer free babysitting
- Interview current college students
- Have the school library display college catalogues, books, and other resources for students and parents
- Send home a list to parents about helpful websites and list of good books about college
- Make a collage using old college catalogues
- Do an online college scavenger hunt
- Follow college teams during March Madness
- Decorate hallways
- Have a “college of the day” mentioned in the morning announcements

- Hold leadership summits, mentor training, and/or goal setting on a college campus
- Have students ask parents and other relatives and friends about how they learned about college and/or selected one
- Throughout the year, weave two minutes about college into what the class is currently studying, reading, and discussing
- Write a poem about college
- Hold the school field day on a college campus
- Invite families to attend a college game on the weekend
- Let parents know about free activities, art shows, and exhibits happening on the college campus in the school's weekly parent newsletter
- Get the college greenhouse involved in a science project
- Visit a class with a college student
- Take CPR and/or first aid on a college campus
- Recruit mentors from a college fair
- Make a college coloring book for younger students
- Check out college mascots
- As a class project, take a special item, mail it around the country, and have its picture taken on different college campuses. Learn about the colleges and places it visits
- Visit a college radio station or TV studio and do a show
- Do a leadership through service project on a college campus
- Find out the difference between a college and a university
- Invite to school college students from a country or region being studied by your class
- Try to find a college for every letter of the alphabet
- Have students dress in the colors of their favorite college
- Have students research and then present about a college to others in class
- Find out where last year's seniors went to college and have the class write to them asking about college
- Have a college bike parade. Younger student can decorate bikes in college colors and make a college banner for the handlebars.
- Study jobs and careers on a college campus.
- Take a white t-shirt and make your own college t-shirts
- Host a parent pot luck dinner to discuss college options and financial aid
- Take the parents on a college campus tour

## **LEARNING COMMUNITY**

### **Proposed Strategies and Activities:**

- Provide opportunities for community participation and support of school programs
- Include business members along with community and college partners in planning district-wide goals
- Provide multiple opportunities for parent participation
- Utilize data to drive all district and school decisions
- Provide professional development in how to create, identify, and utilize resources for academic support for students
- Concurrent enrollment is encouraged and supported with additional funds for fees and books

- Teachers provide assistance to students in writing college essays
- Teachers infuse the college culture in the classroom through rigor, aligning their instructional style with that of college, and fostering greater independence in students
- Students are required to take comprehensive course semester tests
- Eliminate student semester test exemption practice

## **RIGOROUS ACADEMIC CURRICULUM**

### **Proposed Strategies and Activities:**

- Opportunities are provided for horizontal and vertical teaming to align curriculum K-12 to the ACT College Readiness and Common Core Standards
- Teachers provide training to students and parents prior to taking the EXPLORE and PLAN assessment
- Share the results of the EXPLORE and PLAN assessments with students and parents on an annual basis
- Provide staff development in formative assessment strategies
- Create benchmark assessments aligned to Common Core Standards
- Ensure AP and Pre-AP courses are taught to a rigorous standard and that all students who take these courses also sit for the exam
- Seek external funding to provide ACT Prep course or opportunities for students
- Provide funding for students to pay for their ACT assessment
- Align high school curriculum to college courses
- Participate in college/high school articulation meetings and opportunities for discussion

## **High Quality Teaching**

### **Proposed Strategies and Activities:**

- GEAR UP endorsed professional development participation
- Align professional development with Teacher Evaluation Model rubric
- Provide professional development in direct instruction, cooperative learning, project-based learning, and hands-on learning
- Integrate technology into every day teaching and learning
- Identify multiple intelligences and learning styles of students and make curriculum changes accordingly
- Provide advanced students with enrichment activities, acceleration, or encouragement to a more challenging level of learning
- Provide opportunities for students to utilize graphic organizers

# **Intensive Academic and College-Going Support**

## **Proposed Strategies and Activities:**

- Provide tutoring through Title I SES programs
- Provide training to teachers, parents and students about Title I program offerings
- Provide before and after-school tutoring through additional grant sources
- Provide in-school peer tutoring during lunch time
- Implement job shadowing opportunities for students
- Collaborate with local college's TRIO programs for tutoring intervention services and summer intervention services
- Make students aware of summer academic programs and provide transportation
- Create a parent/stakeholder organization titled Parent Academic and Curriculum Enrichment
- Research and implement additional academic clubs and organizations and require student participation
- Conduct student outreach for career exploration and academic planning
- Assign district testing to someone other than school counselor to allow counselor more time for individual and small group college planning
- Provide ACT Prep programs utilizing a rigorous curriculum and trained instructor
- Provide "college knowledge" to all teachers to allow for student engagement in all classroom settings
- Provide college-nights, opportunities for college visits, and financial aid awareness programs for students and parents
- Provide professional development for teachers in strategies to systemically close the academic achievement gaps

## **College Going Identity**

### **Proposed Strategies and Activities:**

- Provide cultural training for teachers
- Provide professional development in how to infuse a variety of cultures into the core curriculum
- Provide opportunities for students to engage in college prep activities on a college campus
- Participate in College App Week in November of each year
- Provide parent and student training on concurrent enrollment, AP Programs, and ACT Prep
- Provide information in a variety of languages representative of student enrollment
- Local libraries sign up to be a Plan4College Center

- Have a College Center located within the school building for easy access for students and parents