DRURY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

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WHY DRURY SCHOLARS?

• Springfield History
• The Gathering
• African American Achievement Gap
SPS – WHAT IS MEASURED?

- No. of students who take the ACT Exam
- ACT College Readiness Benchmark Scores
- Drop Out Rate
- Graduation Rate
SPS – WHAT IS MEASURED?

• 1006 - students take the ACT
• 40 - African American (the district averages 500 African American high school students)
• 8 - American Indian
• 804 - Caucasian
• 44 - Hispanic
• 27 - Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
• 51 - Two or more races and 30 did not respond
DRURY SCHOLARS PRIMARY GOAL

CLOSE THE RACIAL ACHIEVEMENT GAP
THE MEANS:

• Build strong relationships between and among students:
  • Relationships with peers
  • Relationships with African American college students who serve as mentors, teachers and role models
  • Relationships with adults, including DUSP staff (Drury faculty, Program Coordinator and volunteers)
THE MEANS:

• Setting high academic expectations for students:
  • ACT prep courses
  • ACT practice tests
  • Self-directed academic goal setting, including GPA
THE MEANS:

Mentors play several roles:

- Help students set goals
- Follow through with students to see if they are making progress on their goals
- Develop relationships characterized by caring and trust, patience and understanding – the heart and soul of our work.
THE MEANS:

Developing Strong Peer-to-Peer Relationships

Students who develop strong friendships with other students committed to academic success are more likely to succeed in college.
THE MEANS:

Experiencing a College Campus

Students who have positive experiences on a college campus are more likely to go to college.
THE MEANS:

Enrolling in College Prep Courses

Students who take a rigorous high school curriculum are more likely to go to and succeed in college.
WHO ARE THE DRURY SCHOLARS?

• Middle School
• High School

WHAT IS THE DRURY SCHOLARS PROGRAM?

• College Bound Students
• Summer Program
• Year Round Program
WHERE DOES THE PROGRAM TAKE PLACE?

• Middle School
• High School
• Local Universities & Colleges
• Community Locations
• Local Businesses

WHEN DOES THE PROGRAM TAKE PLACE?

• Year Round Program: Middle School – Once a Week & High School – Once A Week and Once a Month
• Middle School Program – One Day in May
• Summer Program – One Week in July
HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS?

• Weekly Mentoring and Tutoring Sessions
• Regular Outings and Trips
• University & College Tours
• Community Service
• Educational, Cultural and Social Events
HOW ARE WE DOING?

• 149 students attended college tours
• 20 students attended Infinite Scholars
• 28 college applications – seven seniors accepted at colleges of their choice
• 17 of our students took the ACT exam - almost half increased their score by three points.
• Four seniors in the yearlong program will receive academic scholarships.
HOW TO START A SCHOLARS PROGRAM

• Identify the need
• Start small
• Determine focus
• Develop performance measures
• Connect need to WIIFM in the community for additional support
ONGOING CHALLENGES

• Funding if the program grows
• Resources for one-on-one mentoring
• Tutors
SUMMARY

• Identify Need (Achievement Gap)

• Four factors that have an impact on academic success:

1. Active Mentors
2. Strong Peer-Peer Relationships with High Achieving Students
3. College Experience while in School
4. College Prep Courses While in High School
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!

QUESTIONS??

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