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National High-Flying Schools Showcase

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GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY
AT JOHN P. PARKER SCHOOL
CINCINNATI, OHIO
AGENDA
Overview – Vision 2020 & John P. Parker School (Dr. Kimberly Mack)
New Mission, Vision, Program Focus (Dr. Martha Hendricks)
GEL in Practice – Teacher Perspectives (Milbeth Allen)
CLC Partnerships to Support GEL (Pamela Knox)
Testimonial – Community Connectors (Deborah Elkins-Brown)
Quick Wins (Dr. Kimberly Mack)
Cincinnati Public Schools implemented an equity and access policy, which resulted in the Vision 2020 Focus for Neighborhood Schools.

- Offer specialized programming in neighborhood schools similar to magnet programs.
- Level the playing field between magnet and neighborhood schools.
- Increase interest in neighborhood schools.
WHY JOHN P. PARKER SCHOOL?

• Deficit thinking was pervasive throughout the school community.
• Behaviors were inappropriate.
• Low test scores
• Little community support for the school
  • Community strategized to change the school’s population.
    • Invited a charter school to move into the community to deplete enrollment.
    • Lobbied for the school to become a magnet program to attract affluent families.
WHAT DID WE DO?

• Changed our school community perception by changing the narrative.
• Implemented a program focus, Global Environmental Literacy.
• Executed a weekly school-wide Monday morning meeting and Positive School Culture orientations to reinforce expectations and promote character strengths.
• Increased community engagement and visibility through Community Learning Center activities.
• Increased parental engagement.
• Offered staff training to develop buy-in and accountability for changes.
NEW VISION & MISSION

- Met most of our initial mission and vision goals.
- Needed to overcome misperceptions about the school
- Proposed service learning as a means of changing perceptions
  - Learners as community contributors
PROCESS FOR MISSION AND VISION DEVELOPMENT

• Met with Local School Decision-Making Committee (school governance committee)
• Garnered input from teachers, parents, students, school community partners, and community council
  • Surveys
  • Google polls
  • Focus groups
  • Staff meeting discussions
  • Individual meetings
MISSION STATEMENT

John P. Parker School will prepare students for college and career readiness, knowing that they have the responsibility to make a difference in the world and the ability to do so.
NEW VISION & MISSION

CORE VALUES

• Accountability and Responsibility
• Teamwork and Collaboration
• Service Learning
• Global Citizenship
• Environmental Literacy
• Lifelong Learning
PROGRAM COMPONENTS

• Global Environmental Literacy
  • Global Citizenship (Social Studies)
  • Environmental Literacy (Science)
• Health and Wellness
• Digital Literacy
• Service Learning
USING NEW APPROACH TO SCHOOL SYSTEMS

• Began to pilot curriculum projects immediately upon approval.
  • GEL Teams were developed.
    • 5 Teams Leaders for each aspect of GEL
    • Teachers assigned to teams based upon interest to conduct research and pilot curricular ideas
  • Service learning projects developed and implemented.
  • New approach to teacher selection was developed.
  • New partners identified to support program
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY (VIDEO)

- VISION 2020: GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xx8YRjjvJPU
GEL: RESEARCH-BASED APPROACH

• Offers hands-on, authentic opportunities for learning all content areas.
• Enhances 21st century skills (collaboration, problem-solving, critical thinking, and communication).
• Develops global citizens and stewards of our world.
• Prepares students for the jobs that have not yet been created.
• Ensures students know that they have a responsibility to make a difference in the world.
GEL IN PRACTICE WITH URBAN STUDENTS

Global Citizenship

• Volunteer with local non-profit to learn about global relief efforts
• Support understanding of how waste affects our community
• Support understanding of how gardens grow using hydroponics vs. traditional methods of gardening in our community and around the world
• Learning the role of first responders in our community and around the nation
GEL IN PRACTICE WITH EARLY LEARNERS

Environmental Literacy

• Take nature walks on our campus and at neighboring nature preserve
• Composting food waste from our school’s fruit and vegetable program to make fertile soil
• Using food from the garden and hydroponics to make salads and share.
  • Seed to culinary
• Studying the basic needs of living things
GEL IN PRACTICE WITH EARLY LEARNERS

Digital Literacy

• Using iPads, e-Beams, tablets, and computers to research and use Microsoft applications.

• Using a variety of applications such as Zearn, Bookflix, Tumble Books, and Starfall.com, and GetEpic.

• Participate in Super Why Reading Camp to increase literacy skills.

• Implement skill-based activities through videos and other media.
Health and Wellness

- Give students opportunities for movement and meditation with Mission2Move curriculum.
- Making health snacks with food from the garden and hydroponics tower.
- Making salsa with a smoothie bicycle using items from our school garden.
GEL IN PRACTICE WITH EARLY LEARNERS

Service Learning

• Visit local non-profits to volunteer in relief efforts.
• Share compost soil with school and community gardens in our community.
• Share vegetables with families.
• Implement a shoe drive to help a special needs student purchase a service dog.
• Collection of plastic caps to create a bench for our school garden.
CLC PARTNERSHIPS & COLLECTIVE IMPACT

SCHOOLS
• Curriculum
• Instruction
• Extracurricular Activities
• Food Services
• School Nurses
• Preschool Programs
• Art Education
• Parent Centers
• Student Services
• Federal and State Funding
• Summer Activities

COMMUNITY
• Civic Groups
• Businesses
• Recreation Facilities
• Health Services
• Recreation Programs
• Childcare Centers
• Professional Sports
• Art & Culture Opportunities
• Summer Camps
• Social Services
• Philanthropy Groups
• Churches
• After-school
• Professional Sports Teams
CLC PARTNERSHIPS THAT SUPPORT NEW GEL PROGRAM FOCUS
COMMUNITY CONNECTORS
MENTORING PROGRAM

- Mentoring Initiative - sponsored by the Ohio Governor’s Office
- Brings together students, their parents, schools, community, faith/values-based organizations, and businesses
- Targets students in Grades 5-12
- Partners Grade 5-6 students with high school juniors and seniors as mentors along with opportunities for interaction with a business partner.
COMMUNITY CONNECTORS MENTORING PROGRAM GOALS

1. Set goals for the 21st Century
2. Build Character
3. Develop Pathways to Achievement
4. Build a Sense of Resiliency
5. Believe in a Positive Future
COMMUNITY CONNECTORS
MENTORING PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

- Weekly mentoring activities with the support of instructors
- Service Learning Projects
  - Can good collection/donation
  - Garden maintenance
- High School Shadow Day
- College Visits
QUICK WINS FROM INITIAL ACTIVITIES

• Increased enrollment by 16% in one year
  • 355 students to 425 students
• Garnered more partnership support with resources
• Offered more training opportunities for staff in teaching core curriculum using innovative strategies
QUICK WINS FROM INITIAL ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

• Developed more hands-on/project-based curriculum in all grade levels
• Increased achievement school-wide
• Increased Annual Measured Progress from 0 to 89.9
  • Similar to AYP
• Increased Performance Index from 56.2 to 70.7
  • Weighted calculation of all tests
GRADE 3 DATA FROM STATE ASSESSMENTS

- 3 Reading
- 3 Math
- 3 TGG

GRADE 4 DATA FROM STATE ASSESSMENTS

Series 1  Series 2  Goal 2018

4 Reading  4 Math  4 Social Studies
GRADE 5 DATA FROM STATE ASSESSMENTS

2016 | 2017 | Goal 2018

5 Reading | 5 Math | 5 Science
GRADE 6 DATA FROM STATE ASSESSMENTS

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Subject</th>
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QUESTIONS