

Activities of Smaller Learning Communities at Clear Brook High School

Advisory

- **Advisory Competitions**
 - * Engineering competition in bridge building, egg drop, catapult in
 - * Door decorating – entire school - Red Ribbon Week – 68 doors–3 community judges
 - * Valentines Day poetry contest between Visual and Performing Arts advisories
 - * VPA “Name That Tune” contest
- **TAKS Pullouts**
 - * SLCs provided pullouts and tutoring of students needing extra TAKS assistance during advisory periods
- **SLC Focus Students**
 - * SLCs during the Late Arrival Day developed a list of students they felt would benefit from additional support – each advisory teacher adopted two students to mentor in addition to their own advisory
- **Mentoring**
 - * At Clear Brook each advisory teacher is expected to be an advisor/mentor to the students in their advisory class – each time there is a progress report or report card they are expected to speak to each student concerning their grade - monitoring is done on a regular basis by Team Leaders
- **Student Advisory Councils**
 - * Each advisory elects one representative for the council
 - * Each SLC has an advisory council which meets on a regular basis
 - * Provide Student Voice - they gather information and ideas from their advisory class and share with the councils - for advisory input we had 20 advisory council members canvas ten students for a total input from students of 500 surveys
- **Advisory Leadership Committee**
 - * Made up of teachers, counselors, administrators – act on information from students
 - * Gather input from students via surveys – job of Advisory Council
 - * The leadership committee gathers input from teachers via surveys & SLC meetings
- **Guest Speakers**
 - * Two MD’s who graduated from Clear Brook came back to speak to students interested in the medical field
- **Fashion Show**
 - * Second annual “Dress for Success” fashion show involving several area businesses and many students from all of the SLCs
- **Poetry Reading**
 - * A poetry reading by a University of Houston professor. Followed by several Brook students performing their original works
- **Career Awareness Speaker Series**
 - * Every Thursday beginning in March we have had a guest speaker with tickets given in advisory to students who are interested – speakers were from the medical, engineering, business, and finance areas

➤ **Advisory Video**

- * **We are making a student produced and edited video of exemplary advisories using various teaching strategies as a teacher support strategy for those needing help and for new teachers**

Campus Programs

➤ **Leadership - Strategic Plan**

- * **Over 100 hours spent by leadership team**
- * **A dynamic document – make adjustments as we go – referred to often**
- * **Shared with CIIC committee – ask for cross-referencing with Campus Improvement Plan so both are documents we are using not filing**

➤ **Staff Development – SLC Meetings, Resistance Training, Pyramids of Intervention, LADs**

- * **SLC meetings – every month – committees for newsletters, bulletin boards, and celebrations such as student and teacher of the month, project ideas and plans such as Swing, extra meetings are added as needed**
- * **Resistance Training – A SLC Resistance Training Workshop was presented by an outstanding consultant who provided strategies to aid teacher leaders in combating resistance to SLCs**
- * **Pyramid of Interventions – During staff development days at the beginning of the school year teachers developed their Pyramid of Discipline Interventions. A dynamic plan of discipline management designed to help teachers streamline effective techniques.**
- * **Late Arrival Days –**
 1. **Collaborated on meeting norms, accessed data on the Crystal Reports to identify SLC focus students – those needing extra support**
 2. **Developed interventions and strategies to assist SLC focus students**
 3. **Follow up of successful strategies used with focus students – shared those across SLCs**
Met in subject groups to discuss most missed TAKS questions – strategies to assist students in studying
 4. **Evaluated and revised strategies for helping focus students, Discussed “infusing flavor” of SLC into lessons**
 5. **Modeled strategies on how to implement SLC themes into the curriculum, developed lesson plans on “infusing the flavor” of SLCs, bring lessons to LAD#6 to discuss and share**

➤ **Communication – Advocate, SLC News, Principal Breakfast, Parent Volunteers**

- * **Advocate – CBHS SLC Newsletter – placed on web sites, sent to community, teachers, and students via email**
- * **SLC Newsletters – each SLC has a student/teacher responsible for producing a monthly newsletter covering events in their SLC**

- * **Breakfast with the Principal** – Parents are invited via email to have a breakfast buffet with the principal as they discuss and ask questions concerning SLCs - feedback from evaluations has been incredibly positive
- * **Parent Volunteers** – Parents who are invited to the breakfast are also invited to become volunteers for guest speaking, tutoring, teaching a job skill in their SLC – a list of the volunteers is being developed to share with the Team Leaders
- * **Teacher Roundtables** – Leadership team meets with teachers during one of their conference periods to solicit input about SLCs
feedback from evaluations has been vastly positive
- * **SLC Bulletin Boards** – Each SLC has its own bulletin board in the hallways which are updated each month with student/teacher honors, events, and upcoming activities

➤ **Academic Focus – Teams, 9th Conferences, TAKS (4)**

- * **Team Teaching** - Two English I teachers and two World Geography teachers made up of shared students formed the first Cohort I teaching teams. After an intense CSSR (Center Secondary School Redesign) workshop attended by one teacher from each of the two teams they diligently worked to develop the first power standards and units of study for their classes. The two teams are working this spring to develop a power standards processes to share with Cohort II teams for training in this summer and implementation in the fall.
- * **Freshman Conferences** - Students failing two or more classes were pulled in individually and asked what support they needed to do better. Letters with intervention were sent home. 103 of 135 improved their scores to passing
- * **TAKS Pullouts** – Students needing one-on-one TAKS help were pulled out during advisory period to meet with a tutor specializing in the subject
- * **Extreme TAKS Makeover** – Parents and students were encouraged to attend a TAKS interventions night where they were given individual study guides and instructed how to use them
- * **TAKS tutorials** – Students who need assistance are encouraged to attend after-school tutorials three days a week – transportation is provided
- * **Saturday TAKS Survivor Camp** – Students who need help are provided with testing assistance focused on weak subject area
- * **SLC Infusion Lesson Plans** – During LAD#4 teachers developed “flavor infusing” lesson plans they used in their classrooms. These will be discussed and shared in LAD#6

Student Activities

- **Field Trips**
 - * A field trip for 9th graders to the Museum of Natural Science to participate in a protein synthesis workshop – one of the most difficult items on 9th grade science TAKS
 - * 165 VPA students went to matinee performance of Swing at Hobby Center for the Performing Arts
- **HAZMAT visit**
 - * A visit by the HAZMAT crew in conjunction with the externship of one of our science teachers. Lessons were designed and implemented incorporating information learned through the externship at a fire station. Students were allowed, with supervision, to explore the HAZMAT truck with the crew.
- **Student Roundtables**
 - * Students are invited to a discussion of SLCs during lunch or during an elective class – students are candid with concerns and ideas, example - want teachers to infuse more flavor of SLCs in core classes – evaluations have been very positive
- **Competitions**
 - * Medical Health Science School presented a 3v3 basketball tourney for Willie Kyle scholarship fund – raised \$250 to give as a scholarship to a deserving senior
 - * MHS blanket and sock drive for Jesse Tree – given to a homeless shelter
 - * Communications School put together a hurricane awareness packets. They were placed on car windshields at homecoming.
 - * Recycling – printer cart., cell phones were collected for money to SLC activity funds
- **Project Lead The Way**
 - * The Engineering School made several presentations to the intermediate feeders. The focus was to get more young ladies into the engineering programs at Brook.
- **SWING**
 - * Interdisciplinary project from 30-40s era – Planning next year to have interdisciplinary units in every SLC
 - * Assembly in gym with performances by choir, jazz band, drill team
 - * 165 VPA students traveled to matinee of Swing – had a brown-bag picnic in Frankie Carter Park after the performance