

9th Grade Academy

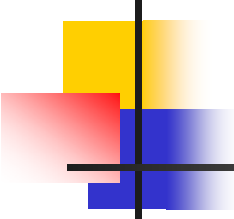


Initiative



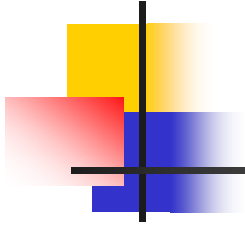
Background

- NJDOE Mandates High School Redesign
 - More Personalized Learning Environments
 - Small Learning Communities
 - Increased Rigor For All Students/P-16
 - More Relevant Curriculum/Career-Minded
 - Develop 21st Century Skills
 - Research-Based Reform

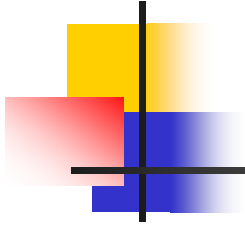


What is a 9th Grade Academy?

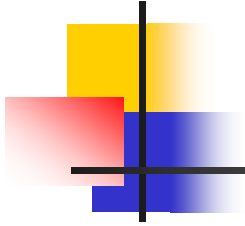
- Transition Program for critical 9th grade year.
- Incoming first time freshmen are assigned to a house of 80 - 120 students.
- Each House consists of cross-curricular teams of English, math, science, social studies, and special education teachers
- contains courses of varying abilities, i.e. honors, regular, and acceleration, and
- has a common planning period for staff to meet.



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- Students remain with the teachers in their houses the entire year.
 - Can be located in a designated part of the building
 - Students may participate in required and elective classes outside their house, as well as other activities such as clubs and sports
 - Engaging and challenging curriculum with an integrated, interdisciplinary approach that uses academic content and skills to address real world projects and problems



- Academically rigorous education that maintains high expectations for each student
- Careful monitoring of student performance and attendance
- Data -driven decision making
- Structured system of appropriate extra help
- Modified Block Schedule
- Advisor/Advisee program (Teachers as Educational Advisors and Mentors)
- Frequent contact between school and parents

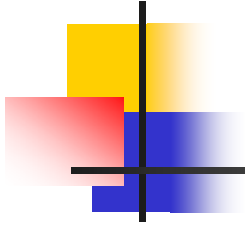


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- Literacy and technology infusion into all content areas
 - Take courses that build skills as well as content.
 - One 9th Grade School Counselor and Assistant Principal to Focus on the specific needs of 9th grade students.

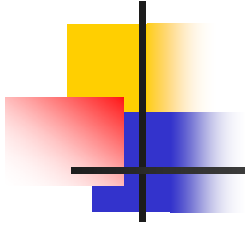


Benefits to Students

- increased academic achievement,
- reduced discrepancies in the achievement gap
- increased student attendance, attitudes and behavior,
- reduction isolation that often seeds alienation,
- promotes positive feelings about self and others,



- increased number of students matriculating to 10th grade,
- lower student drop out rate,
- increased extracurricular participation rate,
- development student awareness of academic/career options,
- stronger student-teacher relationships,

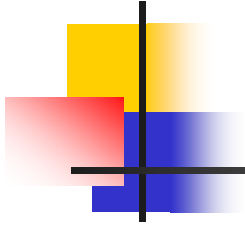


- enhancement of student ability to apply academic content and the Skills For Success: Learning, Thinking, Technology, Interpersonal, and Communication skills in real world and workplace settings,
- integration of academic and technical skills,
- involvement of each student along with his/her parent/guardian in a guidance and advisory system.

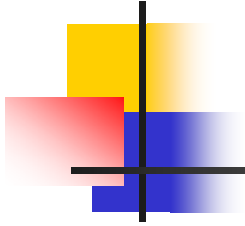


Benefits to Staff

- shared mission, beliefs, and values that forms a basis for action,
- common planning period, a time to meet and talk,
- reduction of teacher isolation, a de-privatization of practice,
- collective responsibility for students' success
- increase in teacher satisfaction, morale,



- powerful learning through sharing, observing, and discussing teaching methods and philosophies,
- collective focus on student learning,
- opportunities for conducting action research projects,
- increase in understanding of teacher's role in helping all students achieve,



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- personal professional development opportunities to develop expertise in the knowledge and skills of teaching,
 - development of new relationships,
 - opportunity to develop curriculum,
 - high levels of teacher empowerment, and
 - potential leadership opportunities.



Where do we go from here?

- Career Academies
 - Arts & Media
 - Technology & Engineering
 - Business & Marketing
 - Law & Government
 - Sports Medicine and Management
 - Education