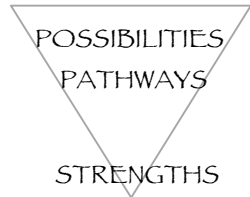




# Prairie High School Redesign Newsletter

October 25, 2005



## SENIOR YEAR

- ∇ Open opportunities through PSEO, internships, job shadows, community service, and practical living skills –focus on transition out of high school
- ∇ Scheduling possibilities
  - Separate senior schedule
  - Classes start on the hour—no bells for senior classes
  - Senior Academy of teachers in core content areas?
  - Morning and Afternoon schedule—7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- ∇ Summer Classes—can the senior year start in June for some kids?
- ∇ Establish specific needs from outside agencies and businesses—how can they partner with our kids to create opportunities?

## LEARNING PATHWAYS

- ∇ Defined the Six Pathways and Strengths-Based Model at October Professional Learning Day
- ∇ Modeling around student s'trengths as a systemic approach to HS Redesign
- ∇ Incorporating our current graduation requirements into every Pathway

Ideas...

- Interest Inventories in 6<sup>th</sup> grade
- Choices program in 8<sup>th</sup> grade for Pathways
- Flexibility in allowing students to move pathways
- Different embedded opportunities for post high school exploration
- Linkages between high school, 2 year and 4 year institutions, and businesses

## 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE YEAR

- ∇ Ideas on how we as teachers can better understand what it is like to be a 9<sup>th</sup> grader (shadowing for a day, surveying, etc.)
- ∇ What would be the essential components of a 9<sup>th</sup> grade academy.

### **Continued Conversations...**

- ∇ A list of what components of a successful 9<sup>th</sup> grade program are essential.
- ∇ A picture of what a 9<sup>th</sup> grade academy that incorporated all these components would look like.
- ∇ An idea of what they believe it would take to implement such a program next year.

## PERSONALIZATION

### **Artifacts and Self Reflection**

- ∇ New Self Reflection Sheet—one reflection for each class
- ∇ November 15 next AA--Students will fill out schedule and then refer back to that schedule in December to account for every reflection sheet for every class
- ∇ January 12—Run-by AA to pick up second semester schedule and turn in last artifacts and reflections

### **Recommendations for Next Year**

- ∇ Meet daily 15-20 minutes
- ∇ Like grades
- ∇ New Name--Backyards, Blocks, Neighborhoods
- ∇ Monthly, Daily themes and activities, menu of activities to allow for creativity and flexibility within individual groups
- ∇ Use of video in rooms—Hawk's Nest, Club Sponsors, speakers, announcements
- ∇ Faculty Professional Learning
- ∇ Different Grades may meet at different times