**TIPS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL TO HIGH SCHOOL TRANSITION**

Definition of High School Transition Activities the HSS defined high school transition activities (HSTAs) as activities for first-year high school students that are designed to ease the transition into high school. HSTAs can be used to provide support to selected students who are identified as needing assistance as they enter high school or can be implemented as a strategy for all first-year students. These activities may include new student orientation (e.g., summer bridge programs and orientation sessions), specific transition interventions to support the academic needs of first-year students (e.g., freshman academies and advisory classes), assistance from a student support team, and mentors assigned to help new students.

**Ideas for Middle Schools**

● Host visits to students from ninth grade counselors

● Invite ninth grade students to come back and visit with eighth grade students

● Provide time for eighth grade teachers and students to visit the high school

● Create opportunities for students to correspond with ninth grade buddies

● Invite high school students for a panel discussion, allowing eighth grade students to ask

questions

● Invite ninth grade teachers and counselors to meet with eighth grade teachers

● Inform parents about all transition activities available and encourage them to get

involved

**Ideas for High Schools**

● Host meetings between middle school and high school teachers to create a mutual

understanding of curriculum requirements and student needs at both levels

● Use a high school design where ninth grade students stay with their same group of

teachers and remain somewhat separate from older high school students

● Provide opportunities for eighth grade students to shadow ninth grade students for a day

● Host tours for students and parents led by ninth grade students

● Plan a “switch” day where high school and middle school teachers switch places

● Provide an academic or skill summer camp for incoming ninth graders

● Invite eighth graders to supervised social and athletic events

● Create newsletters and websites about high school programs

● Develop orientation and mentoring programs to pair small groups of incoming students

with upperclassmen for support

● Host an open house for eighth grade students hosted by current ninth grade students

● Host a “Newcomers Festival” for all new students before school starts

● Provide separate lunch times by grade levels

● Schedule regular open hours with counselors

● Schedule counselor visits to ninth grade classes

● Create a ninth grade hotline answered by counselors or administrators for parental

contact

● Create a transition team of teachers who meet regularly for discussion and revision of

the transition program

● Schedule an annual joint faculty meeting (middle and high) to identify concerns and

successes

● Seek parent volunteers to get them involved quickly in daily school activities

● Develop a ninth grade newsletter that parents begin to receive when their child is still in

eighth grade

● Invite parents to spend a day at the high school

● Provide conversation opportunities for parents of new students with parents of current

students

● Arrange increased phone contact so parents feel more informed and involved

● Create learning opportunities for parents and children to engage in together, such as

computer training, college planning, etc.

● Allocate resources to support and oversee the ninth grade transition

● Fund programs that create intentional opportunities for positive peer network

development

● Place an explicit focus on “over-determining” success: create opportunities to participate

in multiple, evidence-based activities and programs that enhance academic success and

college awareness (culture and social skill enrichment, mentoring and access to

technology)

**TIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL TO POSTSECONDARY TRANSITION**

**Ideas for High Schools**

● Host college nights on campus

● Arrange student visits to college campuses

● Assist and encourage students to register for ACT, SAT, AP exams

● Help students complete FAFSA documents

● Provide dual credit/concurrent programs

● Designate a college advisor to work with students and their families

● Teach life preparation classes (finances, budgeting, cooking, etc.)