

## PTSA Academic Boosters Program Notes 9-7-2017

Erin Deluga, Principal

Ms. Deluga was invited to provide an overview on changes affecting students, families and teaching in 2017-18:

- **Building Goals**
- **New Policies & Procedures**
- **Curricular Changes and Initiatives**

Please refer to the [linked PDF](#) that accompanies this presentation.

The **Ignite D205** presentation was given to the entire district. District 205 is developing a continuum of opportunity from the elementary level to high school. The District is using a new hashtag on social media, **#igniteD205**, to showcase efforts across our schools which support these District goals.

- York is pivoting toward the goal of **Future Ready Learning**.
  - Counselors are being asked to shift conversations with students from “*what do you need to graduate*” toward “*what do you want to do after you graduate*”. Counselors will help students find electives to help them achieve post-graduation goals based on their interests.
- Building Goals
  - **Statement:** *All students will grow by at least 30% on state standardized tests from 8th grade to the end of 11th grade.* This represents a shift away from an *attainment* focus (e.g. “all students will attain a score of X on a standardized test”) toward a *growth* focus for all students.
  - **Statement:** *There will be an increase in students accessing college level experiences, career programs, military, internships and/or courses at York that will prepare them for life beyond graduation.* To recognize this, Duke Decision Day has expanded to include multiple forms of post-graduation achievement... 2-year colleges, 4-year colleges, technical schools and military. It is also the underlying motivation for development of new career pathways and opportunities.
- Professional Learning Communities (PLC’s) update
  - Each course team is now a PLC working together to help students succeed. One effect of this is that students will be provided more opportunities to retake quizzes/tests. Again, this is an example of focusing on student *learning* rather than *attainment*.
  - The Counseling department PLC is in the process of developing an RtI (Response to Intervention) handbook. Counselors are visiting with all curricular PLC groups about Tier I, II, III interventions.
  - York feels a moral imperative to make sure its students are successful, and develop a growth mindset.
- Interdisciplinary opportunities will continue within each grade level
  - The [attached document](#) outlines 2 freshman and sophomore examples, whereby literature (English) and historical references (Social Studies) are tied in with [Erin’s Law](#) (the instruction of which is legally mandated in Illinois).
- Career Pathways continue to be developed
  - Funding has been approved for a Manufacturing Lab, which is expected to break ground in the spring of 2018. It will provide hands on experience and provide internship opportunities.

- York is also looking to create an Incubator lab (Entrepreneurship, Invention), which will engage local businesses via a council formed from professionals who contributed to 2017 Career Day.

### **Curricular/policy changes**

- Dropping off at door #1 was instituted to improve traffic and safety at peak times.
  - Students are to enter and exit through door #1 (Academic building) at all times, visitors through door #3 (main entrance).
- Student ID lanyards: different lanyard colors are in use for different groups – seniors, students in grades 9-11, visitors, and staff. This policy was instituted to increase safety within the school building, as administration felt it needed a method to quickly identify who belonged inside the school building and who did not.
- A new policy restricting changes between course levels begins this year. Students must wait until the semester to move up or drop down in a course track. This may not apply to changes between *departments*. The goal is to encourage better planning when students pick their classes, and to encourage commitment, persistence and life readiness. Students with IEP's or 504 plans are not subject to this policy.
  - There are situations which can be evaluated case by case.
  - Counselors need to work with students to help them choose in the spring, which necessitates a good understanding of the student and the proposed course.
    - A number of suggestions were made to make it easier to understand a course before enrolling, including:
      - Create video recordings of classes so that students can preview a course before selecting it.
        - This would create an opportunity to enhance the existing coursebook, linking video material to course descriptions.
        - It also suggests an opportunity for a student-driven project to enhance the coursebook in this way, creating a “living”, fully linked coursebook.
      - Institute a “shopping period” during the first during the first or appropriately determined school week of school, as some colleges do.