

Good News Report: Response to Student Needs

ADDITIONS TO HMS TO SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS



Student Survey Overview

- In 2016 Huron Middle School staff developed a school climate survey that was administered to students to get information on school involvement, school climate, academic success, and additional supports students felt they needed.
- Since that time the survey is administered each year to assess student needs.

Student Survey Overview Continued...

□ The following areas have had consistent responses from students requesting additional supports with anywhere from 36-63% of our students wanting help in at least one of the following areas each year.

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|--|--------------------------------------|
| □ Making friends | □ Feeling sad or depressed |
| □ Fitting in at school | □ Feeling stressed |
| □ Dealing with peer pressure | □ Alcohol, tobacco, or drug use |
| □ Improving communication | □ Grief over the loss of a loved one |
| □ Getting involved in school activities | □ Parental divorce or separation |
| □ Handling teasing or being bullied | □ Dealing with anger |
| □ Getting along with other students better | □ Being more organized |
| □ Skills for resolving conflict | □ Managing time better |
| □ Dating and relationship issues | □ Improving study skills |
| | □ Reducing test anxiety |
| | □ Improving test taking skills |

Huron School District and HMS Response:

- For the 2021-2022 school year the Huron School District opened a position for a second school counselor at Huron Middle School. We were able to hire Mrs. Decker, a school social worker, for that position, bringing the student to school counselor ratio closer to 350:1.
- By adding a second person in the counseling office we have created additional supports for our students. These supports include:
 - Increases in the number of students that are able to be seen and more consistency with appointment times. We are able to see double the number of students each week!
 - Increased focus on prevention services instead of reactionary services.
 - Response time to student/parent/teacher requests is quicker.
 - Increased opportunities for students to get involved in groups run by the school counselors. These groups include:
 - Kindness Club: A group of students who work on activities to promote kindness at HMS and within the community.
 - Diversity Club: These students are working on a project to showcase the diversity we have within the Huron School District. This project will be on display at the middle school starting in March.
 - Huddle: This is a student support group where students come together to talk about their day-to-day concerns and practice solution focused problem solving skills.
 - Continue to be able to host events for our students like Girls Night Out, Boys Night Out, and Career Day.

Huron School District and HMS Response Continued...

- Huron Middle School has added classes in the exploratory wheel to support and help students with some of the needs identified through the school climate survey. These classes include:
 - Life Skills
 - Study Skills
 - ACES

- Huron Middle School has also revamped Homeroom to placed more of an emphasis on building relationships, Digital Citizenship, as well as teaching tools for personal responsibility.

Life Skills

- Life skills is a class for all 6th grade students.
- We use the program *Botvin Lifeskills Training*. This training focuses on the following areas:
 - Personal Self-Management Skills: Students develop skills that help them enhance self-esteem, develop problem-solving abilities, reduce stress and anxiety for better mental health.
 - General Social Skills: Students gain skills to meet personal challenges such as overcoming shyness, communicating clearly, building relationships, and making decisions.
 - Drug Resistance Skills: Students build effective defenses against pressures to use tobacco (vaping and e-cigarettes), alcohol, marijuana, and methamphetamine.

Study Skills

- 6th Grade Exploratory Class
- “Superpowers” and “How are you Smart?”
- SOAR Study Skills
 - **S**et Goals
 - **O**rganize
 - **A**sk Questions
 - **R**ecord Progress
- Fixed vs. Growth Mindset

Study Skills



[Redacted] (S-Huron)

Fri 2/25/2022 1:58 PM

To: DeJong, Amanda



Mrs. DeJong,

Thank you for helping me learn how to do many things like organize my time, learn how to use my planner correctly, and know what my superpower is. Thanks a lot, to you for letting me have time to do my homework every Friday to not be on the ICU. Thank you for being an amazing teacher and helping me and other students. 😊

Thank you,


[Redacted]

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ACES

ACES stands for Academic Skills, Career Exploration, and Emotional and Social Learning. This class is organized in three parts and is taught by the Huron Middle School counseling staff to the 7th grade students.

- Part 1: Academic Skills
 - Part 2: Career Exploration
 - Part 3: Emotional and Social Learning
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Student Responses to ACES

<p>What is something you learned that you will take with you as you continue on in school?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-To get past my judgements and learn about the person. Also, I learned to move on with my life and not dwell on things because it won't affect anything.-The skills used to control extreme emotions.-Talking to adults when frustrated.-Self control-Care for one another-To be nice to one another and show compassion-This class encouraged me to get involved in new school activities.
<p>What was your favorite lesson?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Having fun while learning new things about ourselves.-The class where we learned breathing techniques.-Positive thinking.-My favorite lesson was when we learned to be kind.-To treat others the way you want to be treated-The development of the teen brain-It doesn't matter what's on the outside. It just matters what's on the inside
<p>What was the most difficult thing you learned?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Controlling my time management.-Metacognition skills-Depression-Probably stuff about your memory-Racism and discrimination. That people were treated poorly

