

Orientation Camp was fantastic. We have had nothing but great feedback. Parents are calling telling us this was the greatest thing we could have done. Their children had a great time. We plan on having Chris back next year.

Pat, Teacher

Collinsville High School, IL

Our percentage of students progressing from 9th to 10th went from 75% to 85% in the first year. We saw a slight increase in 9th grade attendance numbers. All categories of freshman discipline incidents were reduced. Many things were not measurable, especially the change in climate.

Belinda, Assistant Principal

Fairborn High School, OH

To change a culture it takes vision, passion and a "we can do it" attitude. During our Freshman Focus training, I witnessed a magical moment of teachers and students truly interacting and collaborating on a level that is rarely observed at the high school level. I am confident that this dedicated group of teachers and students can transform our school atmosphere and instill with our incoming freshman the tools to successfully navigate through high school.

Eric, Principal

Collinsville High School, IL

The workshop was great. We are excited in North Carolina about changing the future for our freshman.

John, Principal

Southern Wayne High School, NC

My name is Allie A few years ago you spoke at my high school, Gateway Academy, in St. Louis, MO. Before you came to our school, we had no school spirit at all. After you left us it was a whole different story. The halls were filled with pride for our school, kids started coming to sporting events, dressing up and cheering on our teams. Students looked forward to coming to school, people started planning more school events and everyone was just pumped about our school in general and very proud to call ourselves Titans. We went from being classmates, to friends, to a big family. Today, we found out that the high school we love so much is closing down and will not re-open anytime in the near future, if it re-opens at all. Although I graduated in 2008, Gateway is still my home and I am sad to see it go. I was up at school all day today with the students and friends who are still there. Everyone was in tears the whole day talking about how sad we were to see that this was happening, it felt like a really bad dream that we couldn't wake up from. Someone mentioned how it was you that gave us this spirit and love for our school, something we all agreed on. I just thought you might want to know the impact you had on all of us. Before you came to our school if this had happened people would have been happy and thought, "cool, now I have a good excuse to get out of this place". Today, we saw how much everyone loves our school and as we reminisced and talked about all the good times we shared, your visit was at the top of the list. You are the reason we have spirit and you are the reason that, even though our school has closed down, we will still call ourselves, "Titans" and stick together. I just thought you should know that what you are doing really does have a great effect on kids and you are doing a great job!

Thanks for giving me spirit,

Allie, Student

Gateway Academy, MO

This letter is in response to your July 11 and 12 training sessions at Collinsville High School. I would like to thank you for providing our faculty advisors and student leaders with an exciting and motivational program. Your team worked together smoothly and professionally to provide us with information, hands on practice, and opportunities to ask questions. The feedback I received from the teachers was positive, and they felt confident in their understanding of their roles as facilitators. I appreciated the time you spent at the end of the day familiarizing us with the online resources.

The success of the presentation was most clearly seen in the student leaders. They had a blast trying out the activities and practicing in their leadership roles. They had no idea what to expect, but left feeling motivated and ready to take on the challenge.

Again, thank you for preparing us for our upcoming Freshman Focus program.

*Linda, Teacher
Collinsville High School, IL*

Camp was Outstanding!!!!!! My Principal was so impressed that she wants them to come back and do a pep rally for all grade levels. Plans are in the works as we speak.

*Patrick, Asst. Principal
Northeast High School, TN*

Last year, at this time [before Freshman Focus], freshmen were 46% of our discipline . . . this year they are only 16%!

*Mike, Assistant Principal
Graham High School, Ohio*

When asked to list the top 10 events that have happened in your life for a class assignment, one freshman listed Freshman Focus orientation camp.

*Diane, Intervention Coordinator
Fostoria High School, Ohio*

Freshman Focus training was exhilarating. Watching teachers and students work together so closely was so cool. They worked on a level you don't normally see. They were a team. Everyone really seemed to enjoy what they were doing. It was nice to see problem solving tactics being used. It is nice to finally work with a program that has a lot of potential and I definitely feel this one does. I have been a part of a lot of new programs only to watch them disappear within a couple of years. I am a big skeptic of new programs and even was one when I went to the workshop for Freshman Focus. This program can definitely change the culture of your school. Thank you.

*Pat, Teacher
Collinsville High School, IL*

Students were left saying that training was the most fun they had all summer! If a teenager says that you know you've hit the "grand slam" of activities. Both of you were professional and fun. You both made the implementation of Freshman Focus training fun for everyone. I highly recommend it for every high school.

*Patrick, Asst. Principal
Northeast High School, TN*

Taylor County High School

300 Ingram Avenue
Campbellsville, Kentucky 42718-1698
270-465-4431 • www.taylor.k12.ky.us

Charles Higdon, Jr.
Principal

Scott Franklin
Asst. Principal

DiAnne Harris
Asst. Principal



Keith Benningfield
Counselor

Dana P. Young
Counselor

Shari Walters
Bookkeeper

August 10, 2009

Dear Sir or Madam:

For the past two years Taylor County High School has implemented the Freshman Focus Program, which helps transition students from eighth to ninth grade. We received information through a very helpful conference simply called "Freshman Focus" in Indianapolis, Indiana, in February of 2008. Immediately we realized this was a program we needed in our school.

The curriculum for this program is extremely helpful to use in our advisory/mentor/focus groups, but more importantly, it's really what occurs before our students ever start their ninth grade year that's so beneficial to "setting the tone" for the upcoming school year. It's the Focus Camp that makes the biggest impact with our students.

Chris Bowers and Ryan Moran have been the leaders for our camp the past two years, and the students (and parents) have raved about it. They motivate the students to get involved in high school clubs and activities and help connect them to the high school before day one. Their approach is through comedy, which is right on target to what this age level responds to. They also help our students develop cheers for their groups and participate in a huge pep rally as the finale. Our students leave that second day wanting more, which is exactly what we want out of this program.

Chris & Ryan will also help train the Junior and Senior mentors assigned to the focus groups and help them learn their roles. A key to a successful Freshman Focus program is having the right advisors and mentors in place, those who can build relationships with ninth graders.

Our program would not be the same without the two-day camp that Chris & Ryan provide for us every summer before school starts. We even brought them back for our football homecoming last year to do a similar program school-wide, which (again) was a big success. They are professionals and very easy to work with. We look extremely forward to Freshman Focus Camp every summer because it is a memorable and very positive experience for our ninth graders. I cannot say enough positive things about Chris & Ryan.

Cordially,

DiAnne Harris
Assistant Principal
www.dianne.harris@taylor.kyschools.us