



WEEKLY WARRIOR

Webutuck Central Schools

194 Haight Road, P.O. Box 405

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Superintendent's Notes

Students, Relevance, and Motivation

If there is one question that I have heard most often from students throughout the years it is, **“Why do I need to learn this?”** A clear and effective answer to this question is the key to student relevancy and motivation. If I know I want to be a doctor, I can understand why I need to study science, especially biology and anatomy. To be an engineer, I can see the purpose of math and science classes. However, if I have no real goal or direction, much of education seems to lack real purpose or meaning to me and my life. Therefore, to answer the eternal question noted above, we need to explore two others..... **“What do I want to do?” and “How do I get there?”**

The career development process is critical in our attempt to help students explore and develop answers to all three of these questions. Unfortunately, Career Development is all too often treated as an afterthought in our efforts to help students prepare for their future.

I believe that this is often caused by the limited experience counselors have in the “World of Work” outside of education. Clearly, it is difficult for counselors who have spent most if not all of their entire lives in schools to understand the many different career fields and occupations that are available as options for their students. Even if they were once current with this knowledge, the world is changing so quickly that many of the old careers are now defunct and many new ones have been created. In fact, the top 10 jobs today did not even exist in 2004! Hence, it should be obvious that the counselors cannot be the source for all career information.

Even if they could provide the most up to date and accurate information, that is not the answer. It is called Career Development for a reason. This is clearly a developmental process. It requires time and opportunities for each student to work through this process personally. This process is typically divided into several distinct steps as follows:

- Discover Yourself
- Discovery Your Options
- Establish a Career Direction

The first of these steps involves in-depth self-assessment. What do I like and dislike? What am I strong or weak at doing? What specific talents and skills would I like to strengthen or focus on? How much training or preparation am I willing to complete? What are my objectives for life-style or earnings? How do I view myself now and how do I see myself in 5, 10, or 15 years?

This might seem as a fairly mundane exercise, but it is often the most difficult part of the Career Development process. It is often very difficult to accurately evaluate ourselves in the light of others' projections. How one relates to their past or current environment can color one's vision without regard to future potential or growth. However, once this self-assessment has been refined, it provides an excellent foundation on which to begin to establish direction. Once this self-discovery has been addressed, it is time to look for compatible career opportunities. It is important in the stage to understand that we are not necessarily speaking about specific jobs, but rather general fields of work. As we have seen over the past several decades, specific jobs change almost as fast as technology. However, the general fields have remained fairly consistent.

While in the past, this exploration of careers was an arduous task of library searches, all of this information is now readily accessible on the internet for all to use. The focus of this process should be to find a relative match. The goal should be to find a career that lights a spark of interest or, better yet, a passion which will provide the relevancy and motivation for the student to strive for success on the path to that career. Once the student has a goal, it is possible for the

teachers to link what they are teaching to the career preparation and activities, thereby creating relevancy for the student and the answer to the eternal question; “Why do I need to learn this?”

As schools, this is probably our biggest challenge, but through a concerted effort of systematic career development activities, we can help our students provide the answers.

By working together, we can make it happen!

Steve Schoonmaker

Educational Quote of the Week

“When success is achieved, the organization needs to investigate what led to it with the same rigor and scrutiny it might apply to understanding the causes of failure.”

Francesca Gino and Gary Pisano

READING AROUND THE WORLD -----UPDATE

Latest Update: 315,524 pages read by grades 4, 5, & 6 since January 1!

HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

**Kenneth H. Sauer, Principal
Webutuck Jr./Sr. High School**

We congratulate Alyssa Biscoglio for being recognized by the Dutchess County Bar Association as the Best Advocate. The judges (real "Your Honor" judges) at each mock trial enactment designate one of six students as the "best advocate." Among all competing student attorneys in the county (I believe there were between 40 and 45 student lawyers this year), the individual with the most designations is honored by the Dutchess County Bar Association. Webutuck High School senior Alyssa Biscoglio, the team's lead attorney, is co-winner this year of the Ben Allen Breslow Award. It is interesting to note that the tie is with a Pine Plains student who had the advantage of competing in one more round (finals) than Alyssa.

Alyssa's proud achievement is well earned and much deserved; she worked hard and it obviously showed. The honor also reflects the support from, and quality of, the entire team as well as the firm, unwavering "behind the scenes" support of the WCSD administrators and BOE for this academically important activity. Congratulations to Alyssa and to the entire Mock Trial team on their success this year.

Now that spring break has come and gone, the countdown to the end of the year has begun. There is a lot going on in the Middle School as well as the High School. For the next nine weeks, your children will have something going on nearly every week of school.

Here is a list of upcoming events that I know of...

5/3 and 5/4 - NY state English assessments for both 7th and 8th grades (in the morning)

5/5 – AP English Exam and the College Fair

5/6 - AP US History Exam and a dance for 7th and 8th graders (sponsored by 7th grade)

5/9 – AP Biology Exam

5/11 – AP Statistics Exam, Spring concert for grades 6-8

5/11 and 5/12 - NY state Math assessments for both 7th and 8th grades (in the morning)

Week of 5/15 - St. Jude Marathon in Mrs. Mathers' classes

5/13 – School-wide assembly on Jazz 1:00

5/16 - 7th grade field trip (details will soon be sent home)

5/17 – Budget Vote

5/18 – High School Concert starts at 7:30

5/19 - Guidance will be in the Middle School Math classes to discuss career preparation and life choices

5/20 - End of progress period Junior Prom at The Links at Unionvale
5/26 – National Honor Society Inductions
5/30 - Memorial Day, no school
5/31, 6/1, 6/2, 6/3 - Science Performance testing for 8th graders only
6/6 - Science written test for 8th graders only
6/8 - Eighth grade field trip (details will be sent home in a few weeks) (rain date is 6/9)
6/15 - Regents Exams
6/16 – Regents Exams
6/17 – Regents Exams
6/20 – Regents Exams
6/21 – Regents Exams
6/22 – Regents Exams, Senior Awards Night 7:00
6/23 – Regents Exams, Moving up ceremony for 8th graders at 8 am.
6/24 - last day of school, Graduation Practice for seniors
6/25 – Graduation for the Class of 2011 at 11:00

Final exam dates for 7th and 8th graders are not listed above because the actual dates are still being coordinated, but students should expect to be busy at the end of June with finals in all their classes.

Please continue to ask your child about homework, quizzes, and tests during the upcoming weeks. Since there is so much going on, there will probably be fewer tests and quizzes than normal, meaning each one counts even more on the marking period average. This can be a tough time of year for students to stay focused. The nice weather coupled with frequent sports events often makes homework their last thought. Also, as the weather is warming up, remember that students may bring water (only) with them throughout the day. Most teachers do not encourage students to leave in the middle of class to visit the water fountain, but having water with them is permitted in nearly every class (not computer class, shop, library, etc.).

Last week we referred to an article entitled, *10 Things for High-School Students to Remember* written by Randall S. Hansen, Ph.D. The first two suggestions to young people from this article were;

1. To reflect on your likes and dislikes;
2. To challenge yourself in high school;
3. Work, volunteer, or otherwise gain some experience.

As with your education, the more you are exposed to, the more options will open to you as you search out careers. There are even a growing number of internship opportunities for high-school students. Seek work and volunteer experiences in and out of school. And from a practical standpoint, work experience looks good on college applications -- and on future job applications and resumes. And one other benefit if you are working in a paid position: spending money! Just remember that school and grades have to come first, so only work if you can balance your schedule, manage your time. *Example: If you're interested in a career in journalism, start writing for your school newspaper and look into a part-time job at a local newspaper.*

4. Get as much education as you can. We are now a society in which many jobs and careers require additional education or training beyond high school. Some careers even require a graduate degree before you can work in the field. Take advantage of all educational opportunities that come your way, such as summer educational opportunities and educational trips abroad. If financially possible -- and there are many ways to help make it so -- attend college; college graduates make a much higher salary, on average, than high-school graduates. *Example: If you have a passion for science or math, instead of spending a summer goofing around the community pool, consider a [summer math enrichment program](#) or a [space-agency program](#).*

5. Talk with as many adults as possible about careers and colleges. The best way to find out about different careers is to ask people -- family, neighbors, friends, teachers, counselors -- to tell you about their career and college experiences. If you have not already, begin to build a network of adults who know you and are willing to assist you in your educational and career endeavors. And for careers that truly interest you, consider asking each person if you can shadow him/her at work. You could also consider conducting informational interviews at the same time as the shadowing, or as a less intrusive method of learning more about jobs and careers.

Example: If you have a passion for history and are considering a career as a college history professor, contact a local college and ask one or more of the history professors if you can shadow them or conduct an interview.

Next week we'll finish this "Top 10 List".

Elementary & Intermediate Schools

Kathleen A. McEnroe
WES & EBIS Principal

News from EBIS...

The Hint Fictions are mini stories of twenty-five words or less. They should reflect the essence of a character or story plot. They are a great way to summarize a chapter, write a story beginning, etc. After the students read several hint fictions they practiced writing them.

The students also wrote Hint Non-Fictions. The children read biographies and wrote Hint Non-Fictions to summarize the highlights of their famous person.

The children are currently making boxed heads of a character in the fiction book they are reading. The must be filled with the character's thoughts and feelings. Literally' "getting into their head". One option for filling the head is to write a hint summary, characterization, plot highlight, etc.

Hint writings are short and to the point. Each one needs to be revised at least twice before going to final copy. Even reluctant writers enjoy the Hint stories. They don't get overwhelmed reworking the piece and wind up writing several before choosing one to revise.

Here is a sampling...

The Battle

The black and yellow clad soldiers stood guard at the kingdom's walls. A low buzz broke the forest's tranquility. War had begun.

Normal

Elephants rampaged through the kitchen. Fried eggs slid down the walls. Our computer grew legs. Just another normal Friday.

Train Station

A menagerie of people, a gathering of hopes and dreams, stories just waiting to be told. The train chugs down the tracks... Zac Costigan

Average

Gods throwing bolts at me. Going to the Underworld. Nyads, neriads in and intense battle with Ares. Meeting Zeus and Hades. An average summer solstice for me. Noah Johnson

Rainy Days

The steady beat of rain, the crash of thunder, the flash of lightning. A beautiful melody. I don't want it to end. Abby Hoke

Basketball

With only two seconds left in game seven of the finals, down by one, I got a bounce pass. I took a wild shot. It hit the backboard and... Rylee Stephenson

The Hail Mary Play

Blue 42! Blue 42! Hike! I ran through the crowd of green players like wild fire. He threw it. I dove, stood. The stadium roared.

Pearl

I saw her every day for a year. It seemed too real. She got put down, never to return. Pearl was the best pony. Jennifer Motts

Buzzer Beater

Game seven NBA Finals. Five seconds on clock. The ball flew in the air, beep! Swish! That's game! Score...81-80. Brodie Champion

Lost in My Thoughts

It was getting louder, closer. The tracks were shaking. The wind rushed by my face like a tornado. I was swept away. Ethan Lounsbury

Submitted by Jean Rocanova