

PASSAGES POST

Principal's Message

Provided by Yvette Baxter-Sweet

NEXT STEPS

Spring Break, what a wonderful time! It comes just in time for us to renew our spirits, renew our determination, and prepare for next steps. This week we finished middle school state exams. When we return from Spring Break, we will begin preparation of middle school portfolios. We will be six (6) weeks from Regents for High School students. Where did the time go? It will be May 2, 2016 when we return from Spring Break. It has been a very exciting second semester. We will be starting some new initiatives during the 2nd half of the second semester, and planning for ones to begin when we return in the fall of 2016.

I'm very excited to share an ACS/DOE collaboration to start a student internship program at both Secure Detention sites, Crossroads and Horizon. We will be starting with 12 students in total, six at each site. They will be participating in a 6 week internship program working with Food Services. This program will provide students with the opportunity to be exposed to the food service industry develop work related skills and begin saving money for their future. An initiative for the school year 2016-2017 will be a change in the school's schedule. Yes, I know we just changed the school schedule for this year. However, this change will call for dedicated professional development once a week, as well as dedicated time to focus on student needs three times a week. What makes this schedule different than before is the afternoon meetings that will allow us to meet with other stakeholders to discuss student needs. Unfortunately, we will be losing the math focus block, which did deliver positive student outcomes as reflected in January's math Regents results, but we are planning for a more scripted math intervention support systems for students next year.

We just completed our 3rd departmental meeting for the Science Department. These meetings are truly so successful and rewarding. Teachers were able to collaborate around the Living Environment content and think through what is the most important content our students need in order to have positive outcomes on that particular regents. Our next meetings will be Social Studies and Math. The math department will be hosted by the District along with East River Academy on May 5th, 2016. Both schools will be working with ISA on vetting the next units of study. I know that providing coverage for your colleague to attend training is difficult, however, this year we are laying the instructional ground work for next year. Please be supportive of your colleagues, if you are a teacher who is going to a PD please leave the lesson and student work for your colleague, if you are the teacher that is providing the coverage please be patient. Everyone should be explaining to your classes that you are going to school too, that learning never stops even when you are an adult. Let them know who will be covering the class, and what work you expect to be completed when you return the next day. his type of preparation helps to prepare students for short notice change.

Another initiative that we will begin in May and carry into the new school year is around writing. Studies show that students simple do not write enough in school, and the writing that they do on their own is mostly in text format. I am attaching an article to the Post this month that focus' on writing - Getting Student to Write Before They Speak. Before students share out in class, they should take a moment to think about what they want to say, jot down their thought, site evidence to support their opinions or response. All state exams expect students to be able to write. We have to start building their stamina about thinking and writing. A writing prompt should begin each class and end each class. The more students write the more they become comfortable with the process. As the teacher, you should write when the students write to model this process. They see you doing and they will follow suit.

Lastly, just some housekeeping items, it's spring please take time to clean out lockers. If you are maintaining two lockers please empty one and share with a staff member who does not have one. Also please be aware that the Open Market system has just come available. If you are interested in transferring you will need to do so during this period. Once it closes, I am not obligated or required to release anyone from the school. My first priority is staffing the school to meet the needs of my students.

Please have a restful, peaceful and healthy Spring Break

Staten Island Highlights

Provided by Adrienne Pritchett-Dames

On behalf of Passages Academy, I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to Mr. Cory Greene from the Center for New Leadership on Urban Solutions for participating in our first debate. It is important to note that I had originally invited Mr. Greene to serve as a judge. However, at the last moment I requested that he serve as an opponent because the original opponent had to decline. Mr. Greene skillfully researched supporting evidence for his debate, despite such short notice. The debate topic was: Should juvenile delinquents be incarcerated for the crimes they commit?

Passages argued the affirmative and Mr. Greene argued the negative. Our debate proceeded exceptionally and professionally. Both sides presented thorough arguments which were backed up with quotes and research. I was ever so proud of our students. Our students were able to address the importance of accountability, consequences, and programs

within juvenile detention as a foundation to support their argument.

In addition, students and faculty were impressed with Mr. Greene’s expertise and intensive knowledge relating to the justice system. After the debate, Mr. Greene joined us for lunch and further outreached to students.

The above testimony is an example of what successful collaborations look like!

In closing, the winner was “Teamwork”!



Upcoming Events

April 25th-April 29th: Spring Recess – Schools Closed

May 30th: Memorial Day – Schools Closed

June 1st: Regents Exams



*"I am what I am today
because of the choices
I made yesterday."*

Stephen Covey

Important Links

Passages Academy Public Website: www.PassagesAcademy.org

Passages Academy Staff Website: <https://sites.google.com/a/passagesonline.com/staff/>

Passages Academy Handbook: <https://sites.google.com/a/passagesonline.com/staff/documents>

Passages Academy Library Website: www.passagesacademylibraries.org

Passages Academy Library Blog: www.whatsgoodinthelibrary.blogspot.com

Chancellors Regulations: <http://schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies/ChancellorsRegulations/default.htm>

ELA & Math Middle School Testing: <http://engageny.org/content/just-released-2013-test-guides-for-ela-mathematics>

Online Textbook Codes: <https://sites.google.com/a/passagesonline.com/staff/textbook-online-access-code>

ACS Online Policy Library: http://www.nyc.gov/html/acs/html/home/policy_library.shtml

Facts, Thoughts, and/or Questions for the Week

"Share your knowledge. It is a way to achieve immortality."

-Dalai Lama XIV