



Transitioning Ninth Grade
to
High School

Bentonville High School
Bentonville, AR

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School Facts

- High School 9-12
- Student Population 3,135
- Northwest Arkansas
- Staff Characteristics
- Assessments
- Student Demographics
- Ninth Grade Test Scores 2006-2007
- Free and Reduced Lunch



Ninth Grade Transition Program Goal

- Increase graduation rate
- Decrease drop out rate
- All students graduate within four years

Small Learning Community

- Freshman Learning Community (FLC)
 - October 1, 2006 student population 741
 - October 1, 2007 student population 912
- Housed in central location
- Faculty of “ninth-grade only” teachers
- Resources needed for success
 - Small Learning Community Leader
 - Two guidance counselors
 - Two assistant principals
 - Tiger 101 curriculum
 - Internal Data Software System
 - Surveys (Students, parents, and teachers)



Tiger Camp

- One day event
 - Prior to start of school
 - Ninth grade students and parents attend school together
 - Run through abbreviated student schedule of classes
- Representatives from clubs and organizations
- Attendance 2006
 - 638 Students
 - 460 Parents
- Attendance 2007
 - 803 Students
 - 455 Parents



Seminar

- Tuesday and Thursdays – 8th Hour
- 90 minute class period
- Sustained Silent Reading
- Mentoring/Advisory Program
- Guided Study
- Testing Center
- Travel



Tiger 101

- Conducted during seminar during advisory
 - Tuesday 2:15-2:45
 - Lessons / Activities
 - Goal setting
 - Learning styles
 - Time management
 - Study skills
 - Personal responsibility
 - Planning for college



Mentoring/Advisory Program

- Personalize school experience
- Meets twice a week
- Advisor monitors
 - Parent contacts
 - Attendance
 - Grades



Guided Study

- Ninth grade mandatory tutoring
- Core subjects
- Tuesday and Thursday
 - 2:30-3:45
- Students who have 2 or more F's in core subject areas
- Student recommendations
 - Parents
 - Teachers
 - Counselors
 - Assistant principals



Internal Data System

- Track and monitor all BHS students
 - Access demographic information
 - Access discipline information
 - Rights to access program
 - Counselors
 - Principals
 - Administrative assistants
- Enter contacts
 - Parental
 - Counselors
 - Administration
 - Probation officers
 - other



Surveys

- Student Surveys
 - Conducted October 2006
 - Conducted May 2007
- Parent Surveys
 - Conducted October 2006
- Teacher Surveys
 - Conducted October 2006
 - Conducted May 2007

Summary Points

- Key Learnings
 - Communication, communication, communication
 - Perspective-junior high / high school
 - Ninth grade earning credits towards graduation
- Challenges still Ahead
 - Pyramid of interventions
 - Failure not an option
 - All students graduate within four years