

BVPAGE Meeting Friday 12/1

Fostering Creativity (presentation by Kristin)

Board members: Tracy, Heidi, Erin, Delora, Christy, Lisa, Jeannie, Cathryn

Attendance: 16 including board

1. Welcome: Heidi Mann
 - a. Amy Gallentine is taking over as sole President and Heidi will step back from co-President to be VP.
 - b. Brain Blizzard coming up on Sat. Feb 3rd at Scheel's. For 7th and 8th grade students. Sign up coming over winter break. Can be individual or team of 4.
 - c. Summer Ops Update: Geared toward gifted and high ability but open to everyone and kids of all ages. Tues. Feb. 13th 7-8:30 at Hilltop. Already have 19 vendors with more to come. Live music.
 - d. Sandra Johnson recap from Tuesday night. Overview of gifted on a national/state/local level. Presentation and minutes on the website
 - e. Imagine Tomorrow Workshop Tuesday January 30th. ForwardOP.org. Strategic plan for the next 20-25 years for the city. Creating a vision for the community. They are looking for more people to come and give input.
2. Kristin Asquith- What is creativity and how do we foster it? – see accompanying Prezi presentation
 - a. What is creativity? www.menti.com is a website where you input your ideas and they show up on the screen as a Wordle. Teacher can use in classroom to gauge participation and if students are getting the overall theme.
 - b. What do you hear from your kids about creativity?
 - c. Dispelling myths: There are so many ways to show creativity (not just art) even if you don't think you are or think you're not wired that way. It can be developed. It is not frivolous. You can be a high achiever and be creative. You don't need to be an expert.
 - d. Character traits handout, common personality traits of creative people: Original, independent, Risk taking, energetic, thorough, curious, emotional
 - e. Kansas used to assess for creativity- handouts of examples of what they used in assessments. All of it was questionable and subjective. But they were looking for valid things: originality, new and unusual ideas (Spire device), fluency/lots of ideas (Edison, Johnny Cash, Stephen King), flexibility/divergence (3M, IDEO-rethinks ideas like shopping cart), elaboration
 - f. Creative thinking and creative problem solving
 - i. Skills: inductive takes specific and makes broad, deductive takes broad and makes specific
 - ii. Breaking down barriers to creative thinking – putting it all out on paper to free your brain
 - iii. Strategies- lot of BV schools use SCAMPER

- g. Creativity in School
 - i. Creative thinking is a big factor in upcoming changes to middle school, focusing on innovation and real world experience
 - h. Fostering creativity at home
 - i. Embrace approaches and interests that might be different than your own and make peace with it
 - ii. Let them dive in independently. Don't engage too much or take over.
 - i. The challenge for you
 - i. Look for ways to foster creativity within your family- what can we make for dinner with these things?
 - ii. Make it a habit
 - iii. That is the first step to making an impact.
3. Questions
- a. How do you handle a child who has such different traits from your own? How do you not squash them?
 - i. Be open, be flexible
 - b. When kids choose a field that doesn't embrace creativity.. accounting, business analytics.
 - i. They still need creative problem solving skills
 - c. How do you help a kid who goes over the top and then it paralyzes them and they can't get their work done?
 - i. Get it all out at the front. Needs brainstorm – there are digital apps, sticky notes, get all of his thoughts out.
 - ii. Perfectionism: you're giving 175% to everything which is not humanly sustainable. Sometimes it's ok for you to do good enough because your good enough is still 90-110% which is still an A.
 - d. How do you help speed up the creativity process how do you reign them back in?
 - i. It's ok to put some time limits on things, chunking the process up, create a family framework of questions for a project... what do you need? What is the timeframe? What are the pitfalls? Check the IDEO process videos on YouTube.
 - e. Resource: The Gift of Fear by Gavin deBecker, how to trust your intuition to keep yourself safe.
4. Conclusion:
- a. Next meeting is January 12th. Naviance program in Blue Valley supporting career readiness.