



IDEAS FOR PROMOTING COLLEGE ON AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAMPUS

1) Staff members wear college/university t-shirts (hats) as part of the teacher dress code or Friday wear. **EVERY** Wednesday staff would be encouraged to wear their college/university t-shirts and hats.

2) On the morning announcements – schools can choose from the following list:

- a. collect a list of where each staff member attended college – announce the school, city, and state of 1-3 staff members per week
- b. highlight/discuss a university of the week
- c. mention the school mascot from a particular school and play "name that university"
- d. have a staff member announce the school that they attended
- e. play a fight song from a particular school
- f. have students with siblings in college announce the school they currently attend
- g. have students announce the school they are planning to attend
- h. announce college trivia questions each morning
- i. have a "University of the Week" - students that have a teacher who went to a particular university get a free HW pass for the week, ice cream, pizza, pencils, et cetera.
- j. To recite the "Learner's Creed" – with the added reference to college:

LEARNER'S CREED

I believe in myself and my ability to do my best at all times.

Just for today –

I will listen.

I will think.

I will speak.

I will reason.

I will read.

I will write.

I will do all these things with one purpose in mind, to prepare myself for college, to do my best and not waste this day, for this day will come no more.

3) Posted at the entrances of each school would be metal signs with the logo of the particular elementary school mascot. The signs would say in collegiate letters something like:



Much like the Notre Dame Football program, as students enter the school – they would be encouraged to touch the metal sign ... each and every student, each and every time!

4) Schools can choose to implement some or all of the following:

- a. college walls or murals in the school buildings
- b. teachers dress up like characters from different careers ... maybe even a parade in the hallway!
- c. students dress up like characters from different careers and have a parade in the hallway (each student carries a sign saying which school they will attend).
- d. creating rivalries between elementary campuses between the Aggie teachers/student fans and the UT teacher/student fans.
- e. make a large quilt for the school hallway that is made from university/college shirts
- f. use university/college names in the spelling words for the week (grades 2-5)
- g. name each hallway in the building (with signage) after a university/college
- h. name the tables in the cafeteria after a university/college – place that school's logo on the table.
- i. have a "wall of fame" in the school hallway. Photos of famous people would be posted with the name of the college/university that they attended.
- j. assign each student in the 4th and 5th grades a university/college to research and report back to the class on (sports, activities, how to apply, grades needed, tuition assistance, etc). The librarian can help the students use the web to access information.
- k. mini-career fair for 5th graders (10-30 guests to share careers with the students)

l. have 5th grade students take a tour of Brookhaven, U. North Texas, Devry, or another local vocational school or college.

m. Teachers place college flags from their Alma Mata in their classrooms

n. make “top 10” t-shirts for 5th graders:

Top Ten Reasons I’m Going to College:

1. What else am I going to do????
2. My brain still has low mileage
3. I love school cafeteria food
4. I can get help with tuition
5. Higher learning ... higher potential
6. A mind is a horrible thing to waste
7. Because I can
8. I’ve got skills
9. I’d be a fool not to go to school
10. Because my mamma’ said so

n. make school university shirts for 5th graders – i.e. Furneaux University (on front)
Future College Graduate (on back)

o. a scavenger hunt across the school or play area for school logos, names, mascots, etc.

p. an Easter egg hunt with the names of schools inside the eggs ... students that get the greatest number of schools collected wins a prize.

q. a “college tree” at Christmas time.

r. on President’s Day have one student from each class announce a former president and the school he attended

s. on “Track and Field Day” divide the school into groups named after colleges – foster competition between these groups.

t. have teachers in each classroom name their table groups/areas after colleges or universities.

u. have students wear “pledge pins” on their shirts or backpacks that they will attend college.

v. college contracts – signed promissory notes (pledges) by students to attend college.

w. at grade level awards assemblies do a college chant or cheer such as:

College Bound – A Rythmic Chant

College Bound
College Bound
I am college bound
Yell it out

To the roof
With a mighty sound
Set my goals
Work hard at school
Ready for the test
College dreams for me
Come true if I do my best

5) Hanging college flags or banners in the school cafeteria or gym. The elementary school gym pictured below has over 125 different college and military flags. Plus a USA flag that was flown at an air base in Iraq!



6) The Librarian makes the "Young Person's Occupational Outlook Handbook" part of a lesson for 5th graders.

7) At the bottom of all parent or student communication letters from the school/PTA there would be simple sound bites:

- a. Are you thinking of college? College is thinking of you.
- b. Higher education fits EVERYONE
- c. Education helps you discover who you REALLY are
- d. Whatever you chose, be the BEST with education
- e. If you like yourself, you will educate yourself – there IS a way!
- f. Higher learning ... higher potential!
- g. "I am graduating from college!"

8) The writing of a short column each month for a "College Corner" in the Elementary PTA newsletters to keep parents interested.

9) At one general assembly parent meeting – the guest speaker would be a representative from a local college, career counselor, and/or college planning financial advisor.

10) Advertising university logos and motivational slogans like "You CAN go to college," "You CAN afford to go to college," "I am graduating from college!" "I'm a future college graduate!" or "Which college are YOU going to?" on the back of the seats on school buses, school hallways, and cafeteria tables.

11) Career fairs - at district level or at school level.

12) Posting large banners in front of the schools or administration building that reads "Free or Affordable College: Contact XXXXXXXX"

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