

Question

Please reply by Thursday, November 2nd.

Does your school have any sort of program or orientation program for Transfer students? If so, what are some of the highlights and/or elements of the program. Who is the primary contact person for the program your school has implemented.

We have one called Peer Helping and the contact is Gayle Luehr at 22-632-3112

Kate Glarner
Student Activity Director
Deerfield High School
(224) 632-3020
kglarner@dist113.org

We don't do very much. All transfer students are invited to the freshman orientation if they are transferring in at the beginning of the school year. Very few take advantage of the opportunity because it is primarily for freshmen. Students who transfer during the school year are assigned a guide to help them navigate the building and give them a student contact if they don't have one already.
Phil

Phil Britton
Assistant Principal
Fine and Professional Arts and Activities
Wheaton Warrenville South High School

One of our Guidance Counselors is the advisor to our SOS club for all new students. In addition to a BBQ before school starts, they have monthly meetings and events to get them acclimated to the school community.

Sarah Lynch is the contact person at St. Charles North.

Audra Christenson
Assistant Principal - Student Activities and Building Operations
St. Charles North High School
255 Red Gate Road, St. Charles, Illinois 60175

Queen of Peace High School has a one-day orientation for transfers each August before school starts. It is currently run by a member of the counseling department. Items on the agenda include:

Welcome & Ice Breaker
Dean Visit to go over rules
Schedules and locks handed out
Tour of classes and finding lockers
Computer orientation with passwords
QOP Ambassadors to talk with the new students

Stacy A. Kolack
Assistant Principal
Queen of Peace High School

We just started a new program here at Hinsdale South to specifically

target our transfer students. More specifically, we wanted to help those students who transfer in and have struggled academically and/or socially in their previous schools be successful here at South. To do that, we created a mentor program for those students. Here is the basic gist of the mentor program.

1. Students who transfer in are given an assessment by the counselor to determine reading level at the time of enrollment. Based on the score the student may or may not be recommended for a mentor. The counselor may make a recommendation for a mentor based on other reasons if the score does not warrant it.

2. Mentors are teacher volunteers. We did not solicit volunteers from support staff. Mentors were trained by our social worker. In essence, the purpose of the mentors is to be an advocate for the student - a familiar face in the building that the student can go to and talk to. The purpose is not to solely check-up on the student and hold him/her accountable but it's to also be a connection between the school and home

for the parent. In addition, the mentor emails classroom teachers to let them know that the student has a mentor and monitors progress. The mentor also serves as a liaison for student if they want to get involved

with activities or sports but don't know who to talk to.

3. Mentors are to meet regularly with their student at least once a week. Parents were first notified of this program before meeting with students.

4. A profile page was created on a shared drive to log each meeting and any concerns and any positives about the student. Mentors are responsible for creating and maintaining that profile page.

5. Mentors and students are paired up as best as possible based on common lunch periods.

6. A folder of information about the school and community resources was given to mentors to give to their students at the initial meeting. The chamber of commerce was informed of our program and they were solicited for any coupons that we could give to new families.

7. We are trying to connect one of our parent groups to serve as a parent contact for these families. These parent contacts would be individuals who have children at the high school and are familiar with the community who could answer questions transfer families may have about the school and/or community.

This is our first year doing this and has already received quite a number of positive feedback about this program. There are definite changes we would make for next year but for now it's going quite well.

If you have any more questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 630.468.4213 or via email mcheng@hinsdale86.org

Dr. Moses Cheng, Assistant Principal
7401 Clarendon Hills Road, Darien, IL 60561
T: 630.468.4213 F: 630.920.8649

R. Brett Goad
Director of Student Activities & Choirs

Hinsdale South High School
7401 Clarendon Hills Road
Darien, IL 60561
(630) - 468 - 4580

-----Original Message-----

From: Jacobson, Ellen
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2006 2:39 PM
To: Goad, Robert
Subject: RE: [IDSA List]IDSA Survey - Transfer Student Programs -
submitted by oprfhs

I attached a paragraph about Ambassadors. You might also want to mention the mentor program for transfers which Moses runs (I know Mike Holland is involved with that one)

Ambassadors at Hinsdale South

The Ambassadors are trained in the Spring following application and interview. They practice leadership and listening skills at a half day training before school gets out in May. Our biggest goal as the school year begins is to meet all new students as they register and begin their journey at Hinsdale South. We try to assign an ambassador to each new student on their first day to tour them around the building and meet them for their lunch period. Our Ambassador club hosts a lunch each quarter for new students that have joined us during that quarter. We meet them and have an informal lunch and question/answer time. Probably if you asked the Ambassadors they'd tell you the most exciting event that we host is the Annual New Student picnic a couple of days before school starts. The Ambassadors lead games to begin with to break the ice, host a lunch, and then tour the students through the building. At the end of the year, the current Ambassadors serve as interviewers for the next year's group following applications screened by the sponsor.

=====

Waubonsie Valley High School has a orientation program for transfer students during the first week of school. They use our 20 minute advisory time to meet with them. The guidance department and Nancy_Douglas@ipsd.org are looking to expand this to continue support for students throughout the semester and/or school year.

Michele Brown
Waubonsie Valley High School