

South Intensive Transition School Promotes Behavioral & Safety Initiatives For Students

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School-Wide Positive Behavior Support Assembly (SwPBS), "FAB" Bucks Rewards Program, Mentoring Program & Campus Safety Practices Are Ongoing On Campus

A School-wide Positive Behavior Support (SwPBS) Assembly, FAB Bucks Rewards Program, research-based Mentoring Program and Campus Safety Practices are ongoing initiatives that marked the start of the second semester at South Intensive Transition School. The SwPBS Assembly, which is an extension of the SwPBS Team, continually leads the school staff in the behavior support process that identifies, adapts, and sustains effective school-wide disciplinary processes. The SwPBS Assembly & Mentoring Program kicked off on Friday, January 11, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. for high school students and 9:30 a.m. for middle school students.



The School-wide Positive Behavior Support universal guidelines for success for South Intensive Transition School are to Follow Directions, Avoid Aggression and Be Respectful (FAB). An additional part of the SwPBS Assembly was the introduction of the "FAB Bucks Rewards Program." In this program, students can earn FAB bucks for positive behavior. Faculty and staff are given \$16 weekly in their mailboxes for distribution to deserving students. When accumulated, students can redeem their FAB bucks for snacks, school supplies, gift cards, extra time on the computer and "getting out of homework free" passes.

"The goal of the SwPBS Assembly was to encourage our students to try their very best during the third nine weeks. The students became very excited when they were introduced to the incentives and rewards that are a part of our new FAB Bucks Rewards Program. By the time the students left the assembly, they were much more motivated to follow directions, avoid aggression, and be respectful!" stated Monique Lambrou, SpringBoard English Language Arts Middle School teacher and SwPBS Coordinator.

"The SwPBS Assembly, FAB Bucks Rewards Program and Mentoring Program are initiatives to help students become self-reliant and use a constructive approach to situations that may produce strong emotions, such as anger and frustration, rather than acting impulsively. We use research-based mentoring strategies and techniques to ensure that achievements and milestones are celebrated. Mentees will feel the increased relationship quality and longevity that includes intensive training for mentors, structured activities for mentors and mentees, high expectations for frequency of contact, greater parental support and monitoring of overall program implementation. We ensure campus safety for everyone by requiring identification cards for all staff and students, conducting mock drills, encouraging de-escalation techniques and implementing restorative justice best practices for conflict resolution," commented Assistant Principal Terrence Narinesingh.

The agenda for the SwPBS Assembly included an interactive PowerPoint presentation on the benefits and incentives attached to positive behavior and role-playing by the Behavior Interventionist Associates (BIA) as a means of helping students address many of the social challenges that are part of the critical developmental transition from childhood to adulthood. Research on how to build a successful and high-quality mentoring program

and elements of effective practice was analyzed prior to implementation. The impact of the mentoring program will be evaluated from mentees' reports of their grades and behavior, teachers' reports of mentees' classroom behavior, parent-child relationships, and graduation rates.

"I believe the SwPBS Assembly was a great success. Returning students were refreshed on the school's rules and behavior expectations, and new students had the privilege to see firsthand what was expected from them. The FAB Bucks Rewards Program, busted calendar (where students are rewarded with FAB dollars or another incentive for being in dress code, wearing ID badges etc.) and mentoring program were all introduced to the students, in which each of these positive behavior reinforcement measures will prove to be very useful and helpful to both staff members and students as the year goes on. The biggest and funniest part of the assembly by far was the skit put on by the staff members. The students not only got a kick out of it, but they also participated in certain parts of each skit, which created an opportunity for the students and employees to positively interact with one other," said Behavior Intervention Associate (BIA) O'Brian Edwards,

Gerson Garcia, a 9th grader at South Intensive commented, "I think it is a great idea for students because there will be improvement in behaviors and our teachers will reward us for our good deeds. I think it will also help us to understand the points of view of our teachers and learn how to save our money. The campus is very safe and I am happy to be a part of it."

"I encourage accountability, focus, unity, trust and credibility to create high performance teamwork to achieve behavioral and academic success while ensuring campus safety. We work together to promote staff visibility, campus security through the use of ID badges and locked entrances/exits, and effective communication to ensure safe campus operations for staff, students and visitors. Our Crisis Response Plan is updated and the Safety Committee provides input for drills and evacuation routes," commented Principal Dr. Voncia Haywood.

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