

Kyrene Think Tank

February 1, 2008
Group 3 Feedback

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Question 1: What skills do our future graduates need?

- Creative & critical thinkers – navigating the new society
- Innovators strong math/science, reading balanced with arts
- Building character within the public school environment
- Integrate leadership and mentoring models – all kids to not get that at home at night
- Help kids fit into social structures
- School community with expectations for interacting with each other (civility, respect)
- School community touched by the larger community – schools need external influences with the “requirements”
- Rigor, relevance and relationships (H.S. technology/expectations)
- Creativity, character
- Need practical skills (basic economics) to manage your life, personal finance, parenting skills
- Working with money – the impact of choices & decisions that are made (criminal records, etc.) (long term impact)
- Who they are and how they fit into the world including the globe (more than what it means to be an American)
- Second language development
- Parents need to talk with kids about the world
- 80% of the jobs have not been invented

Question 2: How can Kyrene ensure that our students will have these skills?

- NCLB mandates curriculum, the challenge is to integrate the rest
- How much of this can be done during the school day - may need to be extracurricular
- Self directed individuals – initiative – people who can figure it out – work ethic – find a way
- Work ethic is “turned off” – Teach about the importance of work ethic
- Need basic academic skills, character – everyone is different (aptitude, etc.) How does the Content Standard address this? Motivation, curiosity
- Teamwork needs to be taught to prepare students.
- Most of us are self-directed, but we also need workhorses. Everyone cannot be the leader.
- Hiring: skill set, ability to learn tomorrow’s stuff on your own
- Teach people to learn on their own – we are assuming people can do this
- Cannot steer all children to all places – gainfully employed is success
- Self responsibility, morality
- Basic knowledge – how does it apply in the real world (relevance)
- Projects related to learning
- Higher Ed is needed for the “best” opportunities
- Integrated curriculum – kids are engaged/ classroom isolation, teachers are not always recognized
- Student based learning
- Teaching needs to change (more fluid, total quality learning)

- Elementary lends itself to integration – everything is connected (high level teaching skills)
- Learn thinking processes and where to find the answers
- Should the focus be on Math/ Science for all (recognize the differences in kids)
- Math initiative in Kyrene very powerful – why does it work, mental math (a different way of teaching)
- How do we get out of the box?
 - Re-examine testing
 - Re-examine the Content Standards (AZ) – the list of what you need to know
 - Shifting tides of what kids need to know
 - Understand the big picture
- Integrating learning – Ad hoc field trips – see something/ stop and explain it
- World History – 1 class/ relationship to Math & Science
- The program is prescriptive – we are boxing kids/teachers in
- Geometry – proofs Honors, zero regular – proofs teach thinking

Question 3: List examples of community partnerships that would benefit Kyrene students.

- Michael Crow speaks to Kyrene Kids
- Teachers have limited time to develop partnership, need a speakers' bureau, resource list, dynamic topics.
 - Needs to be “user” friendly.
 - Kids do research – these things would help.
 - State does have this resource.
 - Implemented by district in a formal way.
- Kids' ability to email experts (approved) to light the fire.
- Online curriculum with links to make connections for teachers (resources)
- Bring the students to the resources (ASU, MCC, etc.)
- Field trips to inspire students (EVIT)
- 6th, 7th, 8th career planning
- Community blessed with people who want to help, no structure, ad hoc – needs to be accessible by all, not dependent on who is in the class that year (can't be an add-on for the teacher) Volunteers = strength for Kyrene School District #28 A
- A structure would help our teachers build the skills needed for the future – too dependent on the school/teacher/parents. This would cost nothing to Kyrene financially. Speakers need to go district-wide with the message.
- Focus the volunteers
- Blend the classroom & the community – the perfect blend to achieve relevance
- Volunteer coordinator in Tempe brings resource to the City of Tempe
- Movement “boxing” us in
- Community involvement we can do right now – some of the other stuff is much harder
- Partnerships – school was a social setting, it belonged to the community (not like today)
- The community needs to “own” the school – bring back the kids who left
- The community is not welcome in the schools (facility use) (HOA, Cub Scouts, etc.) Before kids – stumble upon the Harvest Festival
- Re-igniting the Kyrene Foundation – Chandler raises 1million
- Kyrene is not a place, we need an identity – announcing who we are signs/billboards – show our pride
- Tempe City Council talks about TD3 – politicians do not think about us

- Local community needs to come first
- PTO PR 101 – create a volunteer army to promote Kyrene – connecting to the media
- Boost the Foundation
- Teacher recognition through a variety of venues (newsletters, etc.)
- YMCA partnerships – outreach “an office @ Aprende” work together
- Less resources to develop partnerships (65% spent in the classroom)
- Our news can get directly into the newspaper (Republic)
- Neighborhood/School Open House vs. the Valentine’s Party
- Rites of passage (the trip to Disneyland) and rituals (by school)
- Some kids in neighborhoods are disconnected

Key Summary

- Skill sets need to include most basic components, character education, decision making, motivation and teamwork
- Recognize the individualized attention students need, not everyone will be the leader of the next generation, some will be followers
- Bring in the community – currently the community doesn’t feel welcome
- Speakers’ Bureau for teachers – pre-developed, web-based
- There is a lot of potential in our programs, schools and students
- Open the schools to the community – welcome volunteers, allow the community to use our schools, partner with local businesses.