

Brookewright High School Development

Heather Hutchison

The University of North Texas at Dallas

Advanced Composition

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There has been so much change in the world that a single droplet of water could create a tidal wave. Due to all these changes, it makes it even more important to ensure that education is changing with it. In 2013, President Barack Obama said that he was announcing a challenge to redesign America's high schools. He wanted students to be better equipped to meet the growing demands of technology. He was on the right track. However, the world is calling for more than just technology. It is calling for diversity inclusion, innovative and creative minds awakened, involvement in the community, and young adults with a sense of the real world. To achieve this, new high schools and education curriculum must be created. In the high school development plan that I am creating, we will attract students that understand that diversity inclusion is at the forefront of everything they do. These students will have a hunger for understanding technology and a passion for becoming the next leaders of America. My high school will have five elements that have yet to be mastered in any other school; Environment for focused learning, Diversity inclusive culture, Real-world Curriculum, extracurricular activities that highlight student interests and build real-world skills, and we will require community involvement of each student. These will be our pillars of success at Brookewright Highschool.

#### **Environment is Key**

The environment is considered one of the top factors to a great education. This includes the environment inside a classroom as well as incorporating the outdoors into the curriculum. "Studies have shown environmental education engages students in learning, raising test scores, and encouraging youth to pursue a career in environmental and natural resources" (Abella, 2021). At Brookewright High School, there will be an outdoor lunch area and common learning areas. For example, the library will have an outdoor patio for reading as well as each classroom

having a large skylight to bring an outdoor element inside. Another component of our focus-generating environment, indoors, will include classrooms that have both desks and floor pillows for students to choose which learning position stimulates the most focus for their learning style.

### **Diversity Inclusive Culture**

Our dedication to a diversity inclusive culture will be at the center of everything we do. Teachers will understand the importance of creating lesson plans and classroom space that is a vision of culture. Education systems have lacked perspective in the past when it comes to diversity. Having cultural décor is not the only thing that links all the differences of various parents, teachers, and students. Janice Wyatt-Ross said, "The cultural upbringing of the teachers and the cultural upbringing of the students form an intersection that is critical to the academic success of the students and the professional success of the adults" (Wyatt-Ross, 2018). To truly create that intersection, teachers will have frequent events and meetings that incorporate parents, one on ones with students, and a lunchroom that has many types of food options from different cultures as a regular, everyday menu. Additionally, the high school will host culture nights, twice a month, designed for students to have a safe place to gather while learning about various cultures. Parents will be able to sign up to bring culturally inspired, individually packaged food, and will be encouraged to act as guest speakers to educate students on their traditions and real-life experiences.

### **Real-World Curriculum**

Our curriculum will give students the type of education that gets them ready for the real world. Studies have shown that the dropout rate for high schools across America has gone up in recent years. Students say that they do not see a good reason to stay in school. In one survey, "Participants indicated that students are graduating high school college-ready, not career-ready.

Across the board, "real-world skills" are seen as the best way to help prepare students for success in the workforce" (Scheidegger, 2019). Teachers will be required to submit their lesson plans with a real-world connection added into each lecture as well as the use of technology.

Additionally, Brookewright High School will have an Adulting 101 course that is designed to teach students how to do their taxes, vote, pay bills on a budget, and more. Our students will be prepared, not only for college-level homework but also for all the ins and outs of

### **Extracurricular Importance**

Having a great curriculum can get a student far, but add in an array of clubs and extracurriculars, and the student will have a college application or resume that cannot be matched. In a study by the University of Wisconsin Stout, they found that "Participants in out-of-school activities often learned skills such as teamwork and leadership while decreasing the likelihood of alcohol use and illicit drug use and related problem behaviors" (Wilson, 2009). At Brookewright, we will take pride in providing clubs and sports for all different types of students where they can express themselves and find their interests. For example, we will have all of the traditional high school sports like basketball, football, track, tennis, golf, debate, theater, etc. However, we will also have some options that are less likely to be seen at some of our nearby school districts such as yoga, meditation, photography, sewing, agriculture, and more. We want to provide an opportunity for every student to find something they like, as they are required to have at least one extracurricular activity each semester. (Last Name, Year)

### **Required Community Involvement**

One of the last elements that set us apart from any other school is our required community involvement. Yet again, another way of appealing to future colleges and employers, community service is a great addition to a resume or application. Nonetheless, we want our

students to find a genuine interest in putting their best foot forward for volunteer work in a category that means something to them. Each student is required to choose, at least, one organization to donate time to. A student may submit a request to choose their organization or choose from the many partners we intend to create with local food banks, blood drives, hospitals, libraries, or fundraisers for a variety of causes. Once the student has gotten involved, they must end each semester with a short essay on how volunteering their time has helped them to build new skills. Our goal is to show students how to be responsible with time management while giving back to society.

### **The Bottom Line**

In conclusion, these five elements of Brookewright High School are created with the student in mind. Students will be able to focus in an environment that is proven to help stimulate a focus-driven, high-level education while teaching them to be uniquely themselves. Students also learn to swim in the deep end of a diversity inclusive culture and grow to understand the world we live in from multiple perspectives. Our curriculum gets learners ready for the real world, which is something that every adult can resonate with as we have all had to learn how to make it on our own. We take pride in providing a club or a sport that every student can get on board with and understand that community involvement is one of the most important things young adults can do to feel good about themselves and others as well as to build their resumes. After graduating from Brookewright High School, students might still experience the tidal wave, but we are confident that they will know how to build themselves a sturdy raft.

## References

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