

CLIMATE/CULTURE CHANGING TIPS
From the Student Leaders of Menlo-Atherton HS

1) ***provide common experiences***--kind of like the Giants (not the Dodgers--sorry couldn't resist) winning the world series--all of the bay area became unified and everyone talked to everyone else about the Giants...how do we do THAT? Rallies of all sorts, motivational speakers, homecoming stuff, battle of the sexes...

Explain Tip more fully: To create an experience to unite students and staff where they put aside their differences.

Idea: The Sixth Man (basketball rooters) and Seventh Woman (volleyball rooters) Clubs, annual canned food drive

Resources: apparel (Custom Ink, IZA, Diddums (local), Paw Prints (local)
Second Harvest (canned food drive partnership)

2) ***provide students with a voice in making decisions, solving problems, taking responsibility*** --class council, clubs, RSVP, student forums

Explain Tip more fully: Students are given opportunities to voice their opinions in official and unofficial ways.

Idea: Student Senate, InterClub Council, student brown bag lunch chats, voting representation on Shared Decision Making Site Council, Live Bear News in all third period classes, annual elections

Resources:

3) ***provide positive social opportunities***--athletic events, dances, clubs, etc. MAKE SCHOOL A FUN PLACE TO BE

Explain Tip more fully: Motivate students and staff to participate in a wide variety of events. Provide VARIETY!

Idea: Rowdy Rooter sections at all sporting events, more campus dances, lower cost activities or alternate means of paying, encourage development of new clubs

Resources:

Publicize using Facebook (social networking sites) and creating an all-access Student Activity webpage

4) ***train students to be leaders and mentors***--link crew, ASB... and address character education on all of the leadership levels as well as all other levels. AND provide a lot of leadership opportunities to practice their skills.

Explain Tip more fully: Provide a variety of leadership opportunities for ALL students to have access to at various times during the year.

Idea: Freshman Transition, Freshman Challenge Day, Summer leadership training, May officer training, Shadow Program, research and make presentations on current and past good and bad leaders, student recruitment sessions for leadership and clubs

Resources: School Website (descriptors and event calendar),

5) *create pride and spirit connections to school*--t-shirts, spirit days, etc.

Explain Tip more fully: Increase school spirit and connections between students, staff and community.

Idea: Bear Wear (school apparel), International Festival, Club Day, Spring Carnival, create a UNITED school mission

Resources: school website

6) *create a culture of service (community and other)*--volunteerism within ASB and throughout the school during times when whole school does adopt-a-family, canned food drives, etc. The best way to help someone's self esteem is to help them help someone else. When kids feel good about themselves they are nicer people, higher functioning on all levels, etc. etc.

Explain Tip more fully: Keep in mind that we have a DIVERSE student body and staff and that we come together by giving back to our local and global community

Idea: canned food drive, gift drive, Project Backpack (provide backpack and supplies to homeless people), Trick or Treat Street (turn school into a safe place for our community kids to enjoy Halloween), tutoring in local schools, annual trip to Guatemala to help various communities work on different projects.

Resources:

7) *celebrate diversity*--multicultural stuff--kids, food, holidays, thus connecting kids from all cultures and informing kids of all cultures.

Explain Tip more fully: Educate and celebrate our similarities and differences

Idea: International festival, speakers, International Clubs, International Week

Resources: local community groups, brainstorm with other schools in the area or district, national and international organizations (UNICEF, World Vision, etc.)

8) *recognize academic achievement on your campus*--renaissance program, student of the month, etc. etc.

Explain Tip more fully: Celebrate successes of high achievement as well as improvement

Idea: Student of the Quarter, Student Shout Outs, daily announcements, monthly newsletter

Resources: Guidance office, staff nominations

9) *create well-rounded people which improves the culture of the school*--by offering all of the above, celebrating all of the above...etc. etc.

Explain Tip more fully:

Idea:

Resources:

10) *Connect students to teachers and teachers to students*--which may be the most important piece--via opportunities for teachers to work with kids on a completely different level (class, club advisors, chaperones), and through programs that directly connect--staff recognition programs, student recognition programs that allow staff to recognize individual students (student of the month, etc.), and stuff like secret pals--so teachers connect with students on yet another level.

Explain Tip more fully: Provide spirit and community service opportunities for the ENTIRE school community.

Idea: Student-Staff Brown Bag series (lunch discussions—fishbowls and panel discussions), Student or Staff Appreciation Week

Resources: