ACTIVITIES IN THE SMALL SCHOOL

Leah Grant - Millennium High School
On your notecard...

- Why did you come to this session?
- What do you hope to gain?
- What do you hope to learn?
- What is a question you would like answered?
WHERE I AM FROM
My School...

- Public Charter School- opened in 2000
- TK- 12
  - Primary Charter- 400 students
  - Discovery Charter- 400 Students
  - Millennium High School- 550 students
About Me…

- At Tracy Learning Center for 13 years
- Lead activities in
  - 5/6 (5 years)
  - 7/8 (1 year)
  - high school (4 years)
BENEFITS OF SMALL SCHOOLS
Benefits of Being in a Small School

- Know all teachers and have a personal relationship
- See most (sometimes all!!) staff every day
- Have a personal relationship with many students
- Know student body well
- Students know you from the time they are in kindergarten
Relationships with Staff

- Professional AND Personal Relationships with all staff
  - Know food preferences, dietary restrictions, personality and work styles, etc.
- Know teaching styles and communication preferences
- Know their ‘Love Language’
Relationships with Students

- Often teach some students for multiple years
  - Able to see growth, changes in behavior
- Establish long term relationships with students
- Build trust with students
- Students are able to participate in a variety of events and teams
Community Buy-in

- Parents and community members feel connected to the school
- Parents and community members know they are welcome in the school and are a part of the school community
- Parents know they are welcome to bring ideas and activities to the school.
CHALLENGES FOR SMALL SCHOOLS
Staff Support

- Fewer Staff members means more individual responsibility
  - Coaching, band, color guard, drama
  - Same staff members volunteer for all events—sporting events, dances, concerts, etc.
- Burn out
- Fewer other staff members for support
Low Student Population

- Getting new kids for participation each time is not possible
- Students have to pick what they want to participate in due to time conflict
QUESTIONS FROM THE ROAD
How do you build school spirit with no athletic teams?

◦ Band
◦ Color Guard
◦ Drama
◦ Clubs
  ◦ Dance Team
  ◦ AcaDec
  ◦ Speech and Debate
How do you build school spirit with no teams?

- Community Involvement
  - Community Service
  - Internships
  - Parents
How do you fundraise to get money for events?

◦ Crab Feed
◦ Father-Daughter and Mother-Son Dances
◦ Self-Funded through Dances
◦ Jog-A-Thon
Peer Pros

- Time for your questions and answers!!!