

# **Celebrate What You Value: Building a Connection Between Activities, Arts, & Athletics**

**Prospect High School-Mount Prospect, Illinois**



**@KnightsOfPHS**



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# What's our why?

The moments that we celebrate, who we celebrate, and how we celebrate them reveals the values that embrace as a school.



# Get Real with Rocks and Reaches

The moments that we celebrate, who we celebrate,  
and how we celebrate them reveals the values that  
embrace as a school.



SWOT Analysis	
Strengths	Weaknesses
Your advantages	Areas for improvement
Opportunities	Threats
Situations to apply your advantages	Where you are at risk



# Trip Over The Truth

**Strengths**

- Great STAFF! ✱
- positive, willing, great role models
- ① Coll. w/ middle schools
- ability to change climate before students become Knights
- Students ARE interested!
- Strong traditions
- many opp. to get involved
- organization
- time mgmt + efficiency
- modeling stuff for students + leading them

**Positive School Culture**

- Kids from Full Building
- Apprentice process
- Helping larger community
- Some overlap between school culture + role models

**Weaknesses**

- kid over b/c
- not very committed
- more ideas needed
- Lack of follow through w/ kids because they are over involved!
- Too many different organizations planning similar types of events

**Weaknesses**

- Kids are overextended b/c of all options
- not very committed
- more ideas needed
- Lack of follow through w/ kids because they are over involved!
- Too many different organizations planning similar types of events

**Opportunities**

- Interest in leadership from students
- Interest in leadership from students
- Interest in 2nd school dance
- Work more w/ other
- modernize language
- Kids where they are
- fresh connectedness
- Combining forces more often
- Looping class boards?

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**Threats**

- time to do it all
- So much focus on future to our students, they don't know how to be present.
- no longer having the LINK program
- spread too thin; nothing done well
- hurting feelings b/c of change

**Threats**

- Burn out
- time to do it all
- So much focus on future to our students, they don't know how to be present.
- no longer having the LINK program
- spread too thin; nothing done well
- hurting feelings b/c of change

**Some organizations do so much; others have little that they do**



# Student Experience Leadership Team

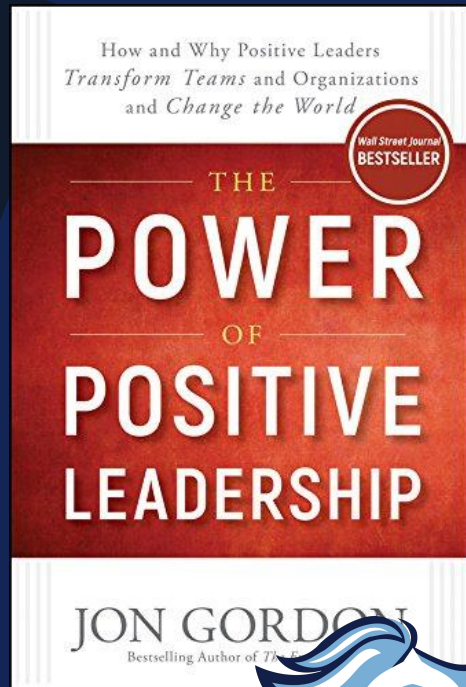
- Connecting building leaders from arts, activities, and athletics
- Common Ground→Mutual Support



Speech State Send Off



Wrestling State Send Off



# Brand Your Values

Make it part of your school's story

- Need to give it a name!
- What's your "why"?
- Visibility
- If you build it, they will come



# What is *EveryKnight*?

EveryKnight is included,  
empowered, and engaged

- #EveryKnight
- Make it part of your message
- Use it everywhere
- Let the brand guide your actions



  
**EVERY**  
*Knight*





# What is ELITE

Everyday Leadership Inspired Through Example

*Academics, Loyalty, Selflessness, Leadership,  
Character, Sportsmanship*

## Best Practice:

- Celebrate the present
- Awards can go to any age group/ability
- Common practice among stakeholders
- Staff buy-in (Everyone is busy)
- Highlight the hard work and attributes of students beyond arts, activities, and athletics



Dan DeBoeuf  
@PHS\_DeBoeuf

Coach Jeff Collier staff elite winner!  
Great coach and an even better  
person and role model! This guy is  
ELITE! @FrankMirandola  
@Go\_PHS\_Knights



# How does ELITE work?

- 30 sports + 4 Activities + 6 Performing Arts: #Prospect ELITE
- 6 medallions and 6 shirts per program
- Celebrate in front of the program
- One staff member awarded per season
- Seasonal ELITE Breakfast



# #ProspectELITE



Jason Block  
@jasonblock216

Congrats to KnightMedia's first-ever [#ProspectELITE](#) winner: Luis! He receives our Selflessness award b/c of his dedication to @KnightTV801, and also because he drove to EG to help @EGHSmedia get their broadcast program off the ground. We are so proud to call you one of ours, Luis



PHS G Gymnastics @GymnasticsPhs · Jan 24, 2020

Congratulations to Taylor and Angelina for earning the ELITE medallions for Loyalty (Angelina) and Selflessness (Taylor). Way to go girls! [#ProspectELITE](#)



Prospect Athletics @AlebiosuOmar · Feb 6

Elite recipient Coach Collins!

We are thankful for all of your time and commitment to the GBK program. You truly exhibit the pillars of Prospect Athletics.



## **Prospect ELITE**

### ***Everyday Leadership Inspired Through Example***

Academics, Loyalty, Selflessness, Leadership, Character, Sportsmanship

#### **Our why...**

As a Student Experience Leadership Team, our coaches, sponsors, and directors have defined a set of universal core values that have become the pillars of our vision for success in and out of the classroom. Together we have highlighted areas in which we believe our students should strive to attain through their time as a participant in the co-curricular opportunities at Prospect, as well as into their futures as they leave our programs. These pillars are meant to inspire our students and their programs to reach their full potential so they can become elite in all endeavors. We believe that through arts, activities, and athletics, we can educate and instill in our students the importance of our pillars which will be carried throughout their lives and inspire those around them. The ProspectELITE recognition is not reserved for seniors or the most talented members of an organization. ELITE is open to an entire program because being ELITE has nothing to do with age or skill. Everyone can be ELITE!

#### **Our how...**

As individual programs, our staff will recognize their athletes/performers who exemplify each of the pillars throughout their designated season. Each staff will have the freedom to choose any athlete/performer within their program who is an example of each of the pillars and recognize those scenarios as they occur within their season. Recognizing students throughout a season, rather than at the end, reinforces the concept that being ELITE is a process and not simply an end result. At the end of each season, programs will have a culminating recognition with all students that received an ELITE medallion and shirt and take a group picture. The Student Experience Leadership Team will host a breakfast with the ELITE medallion recipients and recognize them with their peers. The recognition will also include a leadership lesson that can be used within the various arts, activity, and athletic programs.

#### **Our what...**

Each program will be given 6 ELITE medallions (one for each pillar—Academics, Loyalty, Selflessness, Leadership, Character, Sportsmanship). Programs will be able to recognize up to 6 ELITE students from their program when the staff believes that they have identified a student that embodies that pillar. We ask that all celebrations include:

- Gathering the whole program for the recognition
- Present the medallion and shirt in front of their peers
- Describe why they have been honored
- Take a photo for social media and use #ProspectELITE

Recognizing the character and work ethic of our students is a critical component to encouraging positive culture and success among our students through their high school experience.

The Student Experience Leadership Team also believes that assistant coaches and assistant directors play a critical role in their tireless work but often do not receive the recognition as the person who leads the program. It is important to reinforce their ELITE commitment and to celebrate their dedication to students. Each season, the Student Experience Leadership Team will honor one assistant coach or assistant director with the ProspectELITE shirt in front of their program in a similar manner to the students.

# Assemblies

Assemblies and whole school events create your biggest moments. What story do your events tell?

- Pride
- Provide
- Potential
- Praise

Your emcees matter!



# Celebrate What You Value: Building a Connection Between Activities, Arts, and Athletics

## ***Assemblies***

*Why Thematic Assemblies:* Assembly schedules are inherently disruptive to the school day, but they are pride building moments that must be captured to celebrate all students.



*Past Practice (before 2017):* The past practice made the assemblies about the in-season sports which limited who we could honor and how they were honored.

### *Concerns with Past Practice:*

1. Athletes projected a sense of entitlement
2. Arts was often neglected because few students would attend evening performances
3. Academics was only honor at the end of the year in a manner that felt forced and not exciting for spectators
4. Assemblies operated within silos compared to the student experience

### *Questions:*

1. Is there a way to represent the experiences of all students each time we meet?
2. Can we connect our 4 Seasons of ASB (Pride, Provide, Potential, and Praise) into these full school opportunities?
3. How can we put on a “show” that is inclusive and engaging, while celebrating EveryKnight?

*Current Practice (in use from 2017-present):* We hold thematic assemblies throughout the year. Each assembly corresponds with the ASB seasons (Pride, Provide, Potential, and Praise) and Arts, Activities, and Athletics is represented at each opportunity

## **Pride (Q1: School Pride)**

Pride Assembly-Kickoff Assembly on the first Friday of the school year

- Freshmen learn the cheers earlier in the day.
- Scrimmage Night in the evening
  - All fall sports scrimmage in the stadium (except swim/tennis)
  - Sell student section shirts

## **Homecoming Assembly**

(Check out our overview about our [Prospect Royalty](#) process)

### **Provide (Q2: Providing Service)**

Prospect Gives Back

- Community Service blitz in the school attendance area
- One day event where all participants perform 3 hours of community service

### **Potential (Q3: Personal Potential/Growth)**

- Multicultural Fair to celebrate student identity
- Guest Speaker based upon any school needs or student growth areas

### **Praise (Q4: Praising Accomplishments)**

Spotlight Assembly ([Video of the 2022 Spotlight Assembly](#)) \*\*Note this was a rain plan version\*\*

- What is Spotlight?
  - An end of year awards show where the Arts, Activities, Athletics, and Academics are celebrated in a high tempo and entertaining manner
- How is it organized?
  - Show/assembly is broken down into segments where each area is celebrated
  - Segments are separated by videos, performances, etc that also celebrate student interest
  - [Organizational flow chart](#)
- Unique Videos
  - [You Inspire Me](#) (Staff shout outs to students)
  - [You Raise Me Up](#) (Student Shout outs to staff)

### Outcome:

1. Fun and exciting celebration
2. EveryKnight every time!

# Homecoming Royalty

- Popularity vs Promotion
  - Academics
  - Arts
  - Activities
  - Athletics (Boys)
  - Athletics (Girls)
- All students should see themselves in a “winner”
- “...But the king and queen are a tradition. Why are you ruining homecoming?”



# Celebrate What You Value: Building a Connection Between Activities, Arts, and Athletics

## ***Homecoming Royalty***

Why Royalty: Homecoming is a celebration of tradition and pride, but we cannot truly honor the student experience without recognizing our diverse student identities.

Past Practice (before 2021): The past practice was the true definition of a popularity contest and held student-athletes on a systemic pillar above all other student experiences.



1. Selection of the Honor Guard
  - a. Coaches of our 30 sports teams would identify one student to represent their program (no specific criteria for selection-just a “good” person)
  - b. Students would be introduced at the assembly and sit alongside the aisle
  - c. Students would kneel as the “Court” (see below) was introduced
2. Selection of the Court
  - a. Students would be nominated by other students in the weeks leading up to homecoming
  - b. Staff members would weigh in on the nominations should someone not reflect school values-those students were removed from consideration
  - c. Students would then vote for 5 boys and 5 girls. Couples were paired up and introduced at the assembly where they walked down the aisle and stood on stage together
3. Selection of the King and Queen
  - a. All students would vote during homecoming week for one boy and one girl
  - b. Winners were announced at the assembly

### Concerns with past practice:

1. All student identities were not represented in the Guard and/or the Court
2. Identity representation (other than athletes) was unintentional and often exclusionary
3. Winners only represented total popularity—not the student experience

### Questions:

1. How can we best represent the experience of all students?
2. Is there a way for all students to see themselves in one of the “winners” at the assembly?
3. Can we authentically respect the gender identity of all participants?
4. Will our students and community support the evolution of a King and Queen?

Current Practice (in use from 2021-present): The current practice aims to honor tradition but also represent the diverse student experiences and identities. The goal is for all students to see themselves represented by those being honored during homecoming festivities.

Prospect High School aims to honor students from 5 groups in the school. The structure guarantees greater representation and student sex only factors into 2 of the categories.

- Academics/Other
- Arts
- Activities
- Athletics-Boys
- Athletics-Girls

#### Step 1: Nominating Students for the Court

- All coaches, sponsors, advisors, counselors, directors, and admin can nominate a student from their student organization based upon our “EveryKnight” values of inclusion, engagement, and empowerment
- [Nominations are gathered using a Google Form](#)

#### Step 2: Selecting the Court

- ASB advisors and admin organize student names into the 5 designated groups.
  - NOTE: Some student organizations can be defined by multiple groups. Use discretion to balance them out
- [All staff voted for the top 6 students in each category using new Google Form](#)
- The 6 students selected from each category will be formally recognized and celebrated at the homecoming assembly.
  - Names will be read and one interesting fact or answer to a prompt
  - A total of 30 students are on our court
    - 6 groups–5 students in each group

#### Step 3: Selecting the Royalty

- [Seniors vote to determine the “winner” or best representative from each of the 5 categories using a Google Form](#)
- “Winners” are announced at the assembly
  - The top vote getter in each category will win
- Each winner gets a crown and the honor of being call “Prospect Royalty”
  - 5 total winners
  - 1 winner from each category

#### Outcome:

1. All areas of the student experience will have someone selected as “Royalty” who represents their category, identity, and interests. It was a win for all stakeholders
2. 5 total winners (instead of 2)
3. Homecoming truly represents EveryKnight!

# EveryKnight Multicultural Fair

- Build belonging and celebrate student identity
- Infuse live music
- Can you subsidize costs?
- Keep the energy high



# Spotlight

All groups celebrated and FUN. Make it cool to be recognized—not embarrassing

- Awards Show
- Celebrate all groups
  - Staff
  - Academics
  - Arts
  - Athletics/Activities
- Keep their eyes moving; keep the pace fast
- Embed unpredictable video shoutouts to students AND staff



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