

The College Success Centers, powered by NYGEAR UP, are federally funded and designed to help more students prepare for college. Working out of the College Success Centers, NYGEAR UP site coordinators support students in seven Buffalo Public School (BPS) buildings. Their goal is to increase the number of BPS students who are college and career ready when they graduate from high school and are ready to take advantage of the Say Yes to Education tuition guarantee for college.

Math, Science, and Technology Prep High School

By Natalia Marte & Somaia Morsy

At the Math, Science, and Technology Prep High School, GEAR UP has remained focused on exposing our 10th grade students to college and universities and teaching them about what is required for a college education.

On Wednesday, November 29th, we coordinated a trip for 23 young women to the University at Buffalo. We collaborated with the Women in Stem and Engineering (WiSE) Program to demonstrate the importance of diversifying the STEM fields as well as to highlight what women and, more specifically, women of color have contributed to the STEM fields. Volunteers from the WiSE Program conducted a welcoming reception and a group tour led by Dean Liesl Folks, where we visited various experiment labs and the School of Engineering and Applied Science.



Lastly, our students split into groups and shadowed current students during their science and math class. The young women from MST left the UB campus with feelings of excitement and curiosity. We capitalized on this session by bringing engineering and medical students in for a

workshop in January.

Throughout the week, we host various class presentations and tutoring sessions for 10th grade students who are in need of academic support or guidance. We go into classrooms to assist certain students with their classwork and even translate coursework to facilitate a better understanding of the class material.

For the month of January, we coordinated various workshops centered on the MAAX Curriculum and Career Cruising. We also held panel sessions where we invited current graduate students in various disciplines and law students from the Black Law Students Association to talk to our students about the importance of a college education and how they got to where they are now. It is important that our students hear from current graduate students that look like them, to see where they can go.

We are so excited that we were able to start the New Year off with all of these activities and workshops. Our staff at GEAR UP MST will continue to prepare, expose, and educate our students on colleges and universities and their bright future ahead!



East Campus

By Eann Robinson & Lateef Waerrien

Here at East Community, we had the pleasure of coordinating a field trip to a HBCU college fair in Warrensville Heights, Ohio.



We also began to implement the MAAX Curriculum in a few classes, regarding stereotypes that first generation students have to hear. We used the MAAX program as a starting point and created our own activity by asking questions and having the students cross the line if the question applied to them. We also began to talk about the differences between private and public colleges. We expressed to them the different ways college can be paid for and how the cost can be reduced.

Currently, we are beginning to focus on visits to different colleges. We are in the works of getting people to come in to talk about different careers and their paths to success.

Lastly, we have created a 10th grade ambassadors program with four 10th graders who are willing to pass on information to their fellow students, while being our eyes and ears in the school.

Bennett Campus

By Kali Supples & Katie Stricker

There are three schools in the Bennett High School Campus: Lewis J. Bennett, Middle Early College, and Research Lab. We work with students in all three schools. Students from each of these schools participated in the NYGEAR UP Buffalo-wide trip to Elmira College and the HBCU College Fair in Warrensville Heights, Ohio.

In early October, we helped prepare 10th grade students for their PSATs by discussing what to expect and test taking strategies. We have also gone into classrooms to introduce students to Career Cruising, and plan on doing this more in the future.

On a weekly basis, we lead a MAAX lesson for students in the Research Lab after school program. Through this curriculum, we have focused on managing the high school transition, keys to academic success, communication skills, goal setting, and decision making.

In December, we facilitated a field trip for the Lewis J. Bennett 10th grade students to D'Youville College.



They heard an Admissions presentation about why attending college is important and what advantages there are to getting a college degree. The Director of Career Services also presented about different personality types and how your personality relates to the best career path for you.



Students also participated in a demo biology lesson and took a tour of the residence halls.

We are currently planning more college visits, a guest speaker series, and various activities in collaboration with others in the Bennett High School building.

South Park High School

By Nina Simoncelli & Gina Bellavia

NYGEAR UP at South Park High School has been busy incorporating the Career Cruising online program into the 10th grade curriculum. We have visited each of the 10th grade English classes twice to begin guiding students through the Career Cruising process.

All students created their own accounts, which they can access from any internet-connected device at careercruising.com. Students began by completing the 116-item Matchmaker questionnaire, which resulted in a list of 40 potential careers that match their interests, as well as detailed information about each career and what it requires. Students chose five of those careers to save to their Career Cruising plans for further exploration.

Next, students completed the My Skills Inventory, which helped students see which of their 40 careers were best-suited to their skills. The students also completed the Career Selector to further refine their list of careers based on preferred working conditions, core tasks, and earnings.

As a wrap-up, the students created a post-secondary plan, which included selecting their top two career clusters and top three career choices. Career Cruising also showed students which majors would best prepare them for their potential careers, as well as which colleges offer those majors. After viewing those lists, we had the students save five colleges to their Career Cruising plan to return to for further exploration later.

Being in the English classes gave us the opportunity to not only help the 10th graders start exploring potential careers,

but also to advertise for our Buffalo State College field trip.

Thirty-one students attended the half-day trip on December 7th, which gave them the opportunity to tour the Buffalo State campus, meet some current students, and get a feel for what college life is like. We look forward to visiting another college campus with the South Park 10th graders again soon.



Burgard High School

By Emikhe Tisor & Isaiah Davis

Here at Burgard High School we offer consistent support when it comes to classwork, homework and college readiness. We provide education on TAP, FAFSA, the Say Yes program, and college applications.

We will follow our 10th grade cohort throughout their high school journey to their Senior year. We provide mentoring lunches, campus trips, college fairs, tutoring, career help, and a MAAX Curriculum.

The goal of the College Success Center at Burgard High School is to provide students with academic support and financial education.

In February, we held a time management and study skills session, where we discussed students' PSAT results and how to prepare for future standardized exams. We also took students to visit the University at Buffalo.



Lafayette Campus

By Erin Belile & Carolina Rojas Pion

The Lafayette Campus houses three Buffalo Public Schools; Lafayette High School, Lafayette International, and Newcomer Academy are all located in the building.

We had the opportunity to take students from Lafayette International on a field trip to Buffalo State College. While we were there the students toured the campus, ate in a dining hall, and took a tour of a residence hall.



Students were able to check out Buffalo State's new science building, their sports complex, and the library. They also got to sit in a classroom for a presentation on what academic programs and extracurricular activities are offered at the college. At lunch, students enjoyed exploring all of the food options available

at the buffet style dining hall. During the tour of the residence hall, students had the chance to meet a Residence Hall Director and talk with current Buffalo State students.

After the trip was over, students immediately started asking when they would be able to go on another college tour. They are enthusiastic about learning more about what options they have after they graduate from high school and we are looking forward to helping guide them through this process.

organization, communication and perseverance.



In addition, some of our 10th grade students had the opportunity to visit Elmira College and Buffalo State College to tour the campuses and learn what academic programs they have to offer.

International Prep

By Kavitha Muralidhar & Manvitha Gone

So far this school year, NYGEAR UP at IPrep has been successful at implementing MAAX Curriculum, providing field trip opportunities, and participating in the Diversity Night held at our school.

In October and November, the 10th grade cohort participated in 3 MAAX sessions. MAAX, or Maximizing Adolescent Academic Excellence, is a social development curriculum for college and career planning. The topics that we focused on included "Creating a Positive Mindset" and "Goal Setting". The students were very receptive and enjoyed the team building activities. Through these lessons they learned about the importance of



Another highlight was the Diversity Night, which about 50 families attended. This was a great opportunity to speak with our students' family members about the services and activities we provide in the school. We really enjoyed meeting parents and discussing plans for future events.



LJB's trip to D'Youville College



GEAR UP students at Burgard



East's trip to the HBCU Fair



MST's trip to UB



Check out our upcoming events for March:

Wednesday
7

@ Bennett Campus: “Exploring the College Campus” - We will host Cecelia DeStefano, Student Success Specialist at Medaille College, to talk to students about support services and leadership opportunities in college.

Thursday
8

@ Lafayette: “Almuerzo Latino” - We will hold a biweekly lunch workshop with Latina students focusing on personal values and communication skills.

Monday
12

@ South Park: “Mentoring Group” - Beginning this month and continuing throughout the rest of the year we are holding a weekly mentoring group to focus on preparing students to take the SAT and to apply for college.

Monday
12

@ East: “Rep Your College Day” - Students will create vision boards about their careers and their ideal colleges while faculty and staff will join in by wearing college gear from their alma mater.

Tuesday
13

East: “Field Trip to RIT or LeMoyne” - Students will visit and tour the campus of either the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, NY or LeMoyne College in Syracuse, NY.

Wednesday
14

@ Burgard: “PSAT Day” - We will review the PSATs with students. We will also talk to students about why preparing for the PSATs is important and how this exam will help them get into college.

Friday
16

IPREP: “Field Trip to UB” - Students will tour the campus and learn about what academic programs and extracurricular activities are offered at the University at Buffalo.

Wednesday
21

@ MST: “HYPE: Healthy Youth Positive Energy” - We will discuss with students the importance of healthy eating and self-care, especially during exam time at the end of the year.

Monday
26

@ MST: “Career Cruising Workshops” - Throughout the week of the 26th we will be going into classrooms to talk with students about their career options and how to acquire those careers.

Tuesday
27

Bennett Campus: “Field Trip to Fredonia” - We will take students from Research Lab, MECHS, and LJB to spend the day at SUNY Fredonia. We will meet current students, eat lunch in the dining hall, and tour the campus.

Tuesday
27

@ South Park: “Career Cruising” - Throughout the month of March we will be going into English classes to continue college and career exploration in Career Cruising.

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