



LINK CREW TRANSITION PROGRAM A SUCCESS

Ephrata, PA – The class of 2021 has officially made the transition into high school. During the last week of summer vacation, 66 juniors and seniors spent two days preparing to welcome the incoming class, using a national freshman transition program called Link Crew. Through this program, incoming freshmen are welcomed and made to feel comfortable throughout their first year of high school and beyond. Members of the junior and senior class have been trained to serve as mentors who guide freshmen through the transition from middle school to high school.

The program is funded by the Ephrata Area Education Foundation and is beneficial on many levels. “The Foundation proudly supports this program because it is not only a freshman transition program but also a leadership training program for juniors and seniors and a school community building program,” states Ann Marie Haus, EAEF Executive Director. Juniors and seniors are trained in team building activities, cooperative skill development, and communication skills. Each of the Link Crew Leaders receives a list of freshmen to invite personally to the orientation, to work with at orientation, and to stay in touch with throughout the school year.

The Link Crew program empowers juniors and seniors as role models for freshmen in order to increase academic success through support of peers; to develop leadership skills, and to teach students that by working together they can be successful and can help to create a supportive and positive atmosphere. Alix Sheakley, the Link Crew coordinator, says, “I love the caring atmosphere that Link Crew promotes. It’s a proactive approach to the bullying epidemic that we hear so much about in the news. By training upper-class leaders to mentor and check on our freshmen, we are making our school a safer place for students to learn and to grow.” This is the second year for Link Crew at Ephrata High School. “As an observer of this program, I was so very impressed with the positive environment that surrounded the day. The leaders shared very personal obstacle stories and also offered great advice,” states Haus.

What was some of the advice that the class of 2018 and 2019 offered to the class of 2021?

1. Don’t be afraid to talk to the school counselors. They are here to listen and can quickly become a sounding board not just in academics but also for any personal issues you may experience.
2. Don’t wait to seek out a tutor. Someone is always available to help you if you are not understanding something. The worst possible situation is to fall behind.
3. Get out of your comfort zone and try new things. High school is about figuring out who you are and what you’re passionate about.
4. Do not take classes just because your friends are taking them.
5. Stay out of drama situations, and most importantly don’t walk down the middle of the hall.

The Ephrata Area Education Foundation is a non-profit organization funded by gifts from businesses, retired teachers, district parents, alumni, community leaders, and other donors. “Everyone has something to give whether they give their time or a donation, and the start of the school year is a great time to get involved,” states Haus. Please consider actively supporting the foundation and becoming involved in making a difference in the education of the students in the Ephrata Area School District. For more information, please call (717) 721-1598 or visit the Ephrata Area Education Foundation website at ephrataeducationfoundation.org.