ICCR Grant Initiative at Gill-Montague

Emily Krems, School Counselor, M. Ed. and CAGS
Beth Fortin, School Counselor, M.Ed.
Karen Hidalgo, School Counselor, M.Ed. and CAGS
and Dropout Prevention Specialist
Maria Paoletti, School Counselor, M.S.
CAREER LESSONS
Grade 7

45 minute career lesson
  ◆ Create MassCIS portfolio
  ◆ Complete Career Cluster Inventory
  ◆ Pre/Post Assessment
Grade 8

THIS YEAR: 45 minute career lesson
- Create MassCIS portfolio
- Complete Career Cluster Inventory
- Reality Check

FUTURE: 45 minute career lesson
- Occupations worksheet
- Reality Check
Whole middle school (grades 6-8)

MA Model monthly lessons in CPR (circle of power and respect)

- Lessons taught in small groups
- Topics include peer pressure, stress management, diversity, “College is Cool” month
- Lessons are different for 6th, 7th, 8th grades
Whole middle school
(grades 6-8)

Career of the Month series

- Lessons taught to whole school in the auditorium
- Guest speakers
- Topics include:
  - Motivation/perseverance
  - “Guess Who” game to learn previous jobs of staff
  - Mock job application/interview process
COLLEGE TRIPS
Grades 5 and 6

Visit to UMass Amherst
Mid-April
Performance by a cappella group
Lunch in dining hall
$3 cost to students
Grade 8

Visit to MCLA and Williams College
April 17th
Performance by a cappella group
Lunch in dining hall
$3 cost to students
Individual Learning Plans (ILP)

- Pilot with current 9\textsuperscript{th} grade students
- Implemented through weekly advisory program.
- 35 Advisory meetings once a week throughout the year beginning August 28\textsuperscript{th} – June 4\textsuperscript{th}.
- 5 week rotation; College & Career Readiness, Academic Check-In, Fun, Upstander (anti-bullying curriculum), and Teambuilding.
- 30 minutes in length
- Use MassCIS to administer most CCR lessons.
Individual Learning Plan
Activities this Year

- Create four year plan
- 9th grade seminar
- Learning styles lesson and inventory
- Career Cluster Inventory
- 9th Grade College Field Trip to Hampshire College and UMass Amherst.
# ILP Implementation

## Strengths
- 9th graders have at least one trusted adult in the high school that they can go to if needed.
- Students are familiar with the graduation requirements and the academic expectations of high school.
- Counseling staff feels more connected with 9th graders.
- Use of free program MassCis which offers many career exploration tools.
- Students get to create a plan, explore their interests and talk about their goals much earlier than ever before.

## Challenges
- Do not know if the ILP process will be sustainable next year with reduced staffing and budget cuts.
- Students often forget usernames and passwords to MassCIS.
- MassCIS can be difficult to navigate through and is not user-friendly.
- CCR lessons only happen once every five weeks within the advisory program.
- Advisory time is often not long enough for CCR lessons.
ILP Next Steps...

- Expand ILP process to the 10th grade next year.
- Continue to develop CCR curriculum to rotate throughout all of the grades.
- Continue to grow our advisory program through feedback from students and advisors.
Internships and Work Study

- Juniors and Seniors have internships in and out of the building, using the MA WBLP

- Juniors and Seniors may take a Career class which trains students in employment readiness skills, and supports them through an internship or work experience using the MA WBLP
Career Fair

- April 8, 2015, partnering with FHREB
- Area businesses and organizations will set up in the gym to meet with students grades 7-12 to discuss careers with students individually or in small groups
- Students will prepare ahead of time to determine which tables to visit
- Some businesses may be hiring
MA MODEL Implementation

- High school timeline developed and included in HS Student Handbook

- Master School Counseling Department Calendar developed & posted on website

- Mission and Vision Statements updated and posted on website (joint statement w/ MS)
MA Model Implementation

Needs assessment Survey – students, staff, and parents

“I feel the students at Turners Falls High School need help with”

- College: admissions, application process, financial aid, scholarships, college search
- Career awareness, exploration, immersion (job-seeking skills, interviewing, resumes)
- Decision making & goal setting
MA MODEL Implementation

Enrichment CCR Activities:

College Field Trips:

- Fifty one 9th graders attended – no cost

- 10th Grade trip
  STCC in April
  -no cost

Big E College Fair – Jrs.
April:

- Gill Montague Education
  Fund grant
MA Model Implementation

- Enrichment CCR Activities:
  - Go Public Assembly - MA Dept. of Higher Ed. Campaign - FREE
    - Attended by all students
    - College student speakers from Fitchburg State University, Worcester State University, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, UMass Dartmouth, Springfield Technical Community College, and Greenfield Community College
    - All students walked away with a goody bag filled with college information
    - During Q&A, students who asked questions won prizes
Other CCR Enrichment Activities (FREE):

- College & Career Week @ TFHS – April
- FAFSA DAY Site – Jan. 25, 2015 - 36 attendees from Turners and other area schools
- MEFA Events – Financial Aid Night for Seniors & College Admissions Night for Juniors
- Reality Fair Day @ GCC – Financial Literacy event for seniors
- Resume Writing Workshop and other in-school activities – w/ FHREB
- Blood n’ Guts and Student Ambassador Summer Program @ Baystate Franklin Medical Center
- Upward Bound – rep. in school – 1x per wk
- PSATs in October – All 10th graders and 11th graders that sign up; 10th & 11th grade workshops in Jan. to give results and activate My College QuickStart™ accounts