

High School Guidance & Counseling Department
Freshman Seminar Newsletter
September 2011



Growing Intelligence

Freshman seminar got off to a great start this year with 167 students attending.



The first two classes addressed safety, emergency situations and classroom procedures. Students are expected to get their files from the cabinet and begin the “do now” board activity based on their last lesson as soon as they enter the room. The reward is a new puzzle each day.

We discussed and practiced what respect, responsibility and teamwork looks like in our classroom with the “Wright Family Vacation” activity.



Time

Now is the time for the ninth grade students to take control of their future. They are expected to discover more about themselves so they can match a career with their personality. One activity we do is the t-shirt activity, which has students create a visual of their past and future dreams and aspirations. Autobiography bingo lets students share common interests.

Students listened to the Michael Jordan story explaining his natural ability or desire was not enough to get him known as one of the best basketball stars of all time. He had to practice to master his skills. Just as they must work by repetition and practice to succeed in high school, showing everyone can grow their intelligence.

Groups of students tried to match careers with faces, which helped them to realize how stereotyping might limit a person’s aspirations.

Which brings us to something new for the freshmen seminar program. A Teaching Tolerance documentary was shown to all classes. The video told the inspiring story of Jamie Nabozny and the difficulties he experienced with bullying when he was a student. Three of our students felt comfortable enough to contact Jamie on facebook to see how he is doing in life.

A reading of Dr.Suess’ “Star Bellied Sneetches” closed on September activities. Next month we begin with study skills.

Please check out our freshman seminar web page at www.ichabodcrane.org for more information about the program.

Michele Evans, Guidance Counselor
Penny Barlow, Teaching Assistant

Non-Discrimination Compliance Statement

The Ichabod Crane Central School District hereby advises students, parents, employees, and the general public that it offers educational opportunities including vocational opportunities without regard to sex, race, color, national origin, handicap or religion. Inquiries regarding this non-discrimination policy may be directed to: Title IX Compliance Officer, Shannon Shine, Principal, Ichabod Crane Elementary School, Valatie, NY 12184 (518) 758-7575 and Section 504 Compliance Officer, Robert McCloskey, Director of Special Education, Ichabod Crane Central School District, Valatie, NY 12184 (518) 758-7575. A copy of the “In Compliance with Section 1.4 (a)” is available in the Superintendent’s Office.