

Student Success Portfolio Program

March Discussion Starters

Stimulating Discussion: Asking the Right Questions

Sometimes encouraging your student to talk openly and in depth about their portfolio may be a challenge. In the past, I wrote a Q & A weekly newspaper column responding to questions of parents and teachers. One question from a parent was “How do I get my child to open up about their day at school? When I ask them how their day went, all they respond is “Fine”.” If you are talking with your high school student and asking them about their recent Portfolio activities, perhaps they are responding they are doing “Fine” also. Below are some more specific questions you may want to ask them to draw out more information as to what their recent Portfolio activities.

1. Have you added in any new artifacts or items into your Portfolio? If so, tell me about them.
2. What activities have you been doing in the past month which could become a new entry into your Portfolio?
3. Have you been involved in any new school related activities? Community based activities? Volunteer activities? Hobbies?
4. Have your clubs or sports teams been active? Have you participated in any special activities, contests or tournaments with these groups?
5. Have you been hired for any jobs starting in the near future? During the week of March Break? For the summer? After hours during the week or on weekends?

6. Have you started to think about who you may ask to write your reference letter(s)? How will you pick them? What factors will you consider when making this selection?

Asking more specific questions regarding their current Portfolio entries, their interests and/or their strengths may promote more reflection on the part of the student as they discuss with you their most recent activities and Portfolio entries.

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