

Huntington Park High School Student Voice Legacy Project

Huntington Park High School is a school with a lot of need in many areas, taking into consideration the demographics of the community. There is a need for parent education, college outreach, high school completion and drug-use education. All of these factors contribute to each student's engagement, which is evaluated on student attendance and other data. One of the initiatives our school took this year was to change the title of the Attendance Task Force to the School Engagement Task Force. The task force included an administrator, school social workers, academic counselors, and other support staff if necessary. The task force would meet biweekly (or as needed) in order to brainstorm schoolwide initiatives to further engage students at school.

The efforts of the School Engagement Task Force blended with the Student Voice work at Huntington Park. Adults and students met together and engaged in a World Café activity to analyze our Quaglia Student Voice data. Students provided recommendations that influenced actions taken over the course of the year.

A few of the activities planned included door decorating contests for anti-vape use, women's empowerment, and holiday cheer. These activities were intended for teachers to use during their advisory/homeroom time to engage students in conversation, and contribute to the overall culture of HPHS. The task force invited students from the school leadership team to contribute ideas, and to then take their ideas back to the student body, so that all students were involved in improving overall school engagement.

Additionally, the School Engagement Task Force helped create the House of Representatives, which included one or two students nominated from each advisory class to attend a biweekly meeting. This increased the number of students experiencing leadership opportunities, and increased the amount of student voice influencing decisions being made at the school. The meetings were intended to share important information such as school events, grading calendars, testing information, social emotional health, anti-drug use education and more. Student Representatives were then expected to share this information with their peers during advisory time. The hope is that students will learn from students, rather than always hearing announcements from the adults on campus, leading to a greater sense of shared responsibility for the health of our school community.

HPHS also participated in a districtwide anti-vaping campaign and created a club, Advocates for Healthy Choices. This club was student-led, and students created both a campaign and a video that was presented to other advocates. A Pupil Services and Attendance counselor and social worker assisted leading the club. The club met every Monday after school for 1 ½ hours, as well as during school hours if necessary, in order to complete the campaign or videos.

Student voice without question increased at HPHS over the course of the 2019-20 school year.