

East Alternative Education Project Executive Summary

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PROJECT EXECUTIVE ITEM 1: REALIZED PROJECT SUMMARY & BENEFIT

This semester, our Day One Leadership team went to East Alternative School to help tutor and mentor students who are a grade or two behind and need to be caught up before December 16, 2016. We came to East open-minded and hoping that the students would accept us; we believed that they wanted to be accepted by us as well. We had many goals to accomplish at East, but our main goal was to help their grades as best as we could. Some students are at East Alternative just because they are behind on their work, while others are there for behavior reasons. All of the students, regardless of what they are there for, are determined to finish their classwork. The main problem with the kids' learning is that they are in a front of a computer all day long. We wanted the kids to play educational games and have fun doing it; so for our project, we planned, organized, and put on a field day.

The kids had no idea that we were doing a field day until the day before, and they were really excited. The field day consisted of relay races, kickball, and an educational game of jeopardy. The kids received goodie bags containing pencils, pens, erasers, and highlighters, and they got to either take them home or keep them at school. The field day was intended to be a fun day away from their school work and our tutoring/service work. Each week, we all go and tutor for at least two hours. We have accumulated a total of 93.75 hours and most of the students have jumped two or three letter grades. We have traveled a total number of 402 miles.

Our accomplishments are important to us, but they are important to the students at East Alternative as well. One of our main accomplishments is the students' grades improving. Some of the smaller, but yet equally as important, accomplishments are time management, improved people skills, bonding with the kids and getting to know them on a personal level, and responsibility. Each of these are important because we are trying to better our leadership skills, and the students of East are helping us do that. Another one of our main goals is to help the students at East Alternative get into their correct grade. When we first started going to East, the students did not seem motivated to do their work. For instance, one of the students does not like to read, but now one of our group leaders encourages her to read every time we go. Just last week some of the students were telling me how they only had a couple more classes to go to get into their right grade. This goal is important because getting them into right grade is essential. A lot of the students have told us how they want to go to college, and the only way they are going to get there is to finish high school.

PROJECT EXECUTIVE ITEM 2: Leadership Lessons Learned

Our team had a rough start in the beginning. We had some serious communication issues and it was tricky learning how to work with other strong-minded leaders. However, after meeting and talking through issues that we had, we became more cohesive as a group. In addition, some members had an issue with time management and scheduling. As college students, our schedules can be busy. A few team members do not own cars, so we have had to work together in order to find times to share rides that would work for everyone. At East Alternative, the students work on computers every day, so it was difficult to truly connect and interact with them without distracting them from their schoolwork. However, we have found a way to make it work.

Sometimes, we make a joke or chat, while they are switching assignments or we sit and talk to them at lunch or breakfast. The more we interacted with them, the more excited we became to work at East every week. They are truly amazing kids, and it is quite a pleasure to get to know them. All of them have come so far and they only have a little more to go in order to complete their schoolwork by December 16, 2016. From a leadership perspective, we have learned a great deal. We have overcome a great deal of adversity within our group. We figured out schedule obstacles in order to find a date that worked for everyone. We have learned a lot about each other, what it means to work with someone else, and we have learned a lot about ourselves.