

The 9th Grade Opportunity



**Transforming School
from the Bottom Up**

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The 9th Grade Problem



- Highest Discipline Rates
- Highest Retention Rates
- Highest Truancy Rates
- Highest Failure Rates



Team Design

- Consists of 4 teachers from the 4 core areas – but interdisciplinary instruction is not the focus
- Common planning period shared by teachers
- Mixed heterogeneously/randomly – no weak team
- Target more than just the “most at-risk students”
- Teams do not need to be physically isolated
- Team practices are taught in ALL teamed classes

Emphasis on Traditional High Academic Standards


1. Students must realize that poor choices can result in failure.
2. The school should teach the role of failure in success.




The 9th Grade Opportunity



The Dream




It is the responsibility of schools to give everyone access to the American dream.




First, we must make students believe they can have access.

Then we must give them the tools to achieve it.


Three Things Teachers Must Believe




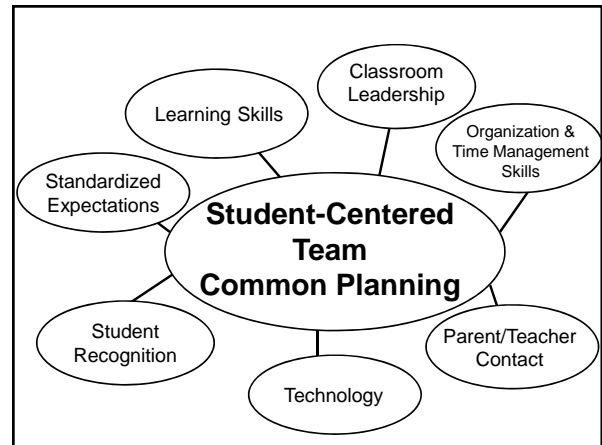
1. The Subject Matter Is Important!
2. The Students Can Learn the Subject Matter!
3. The Teacher Can Make a Difference!




Three Things Students Must Believe



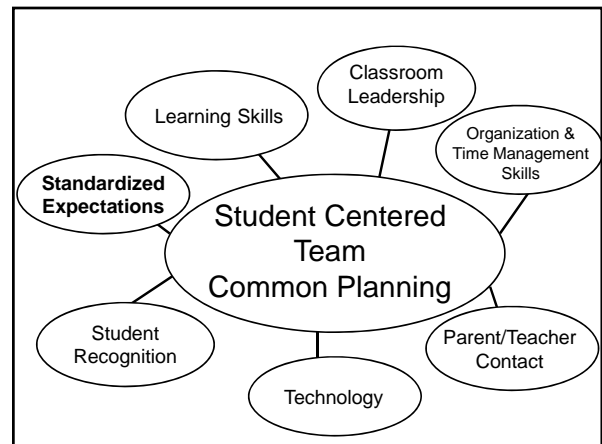
1. I Can Learn the Subject Matter!
2. The System is There for Me!
3. Life Is or Can Be Good!

Team Planning



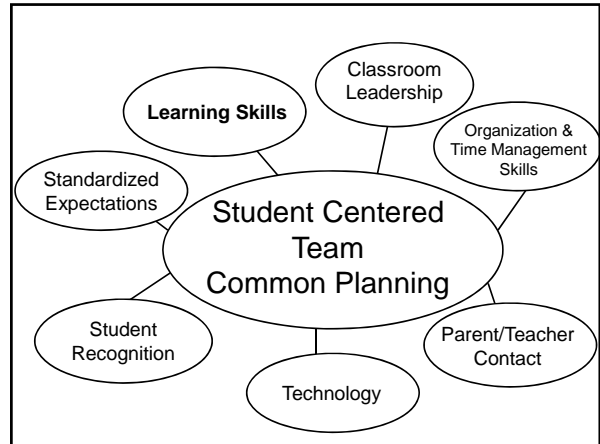
- Inservice
- Sharing of Ideas
- Student and Parent Conferences
- Program Development
- Discussion of Student Issues
- Maintain Team Log




Standardized Expectations



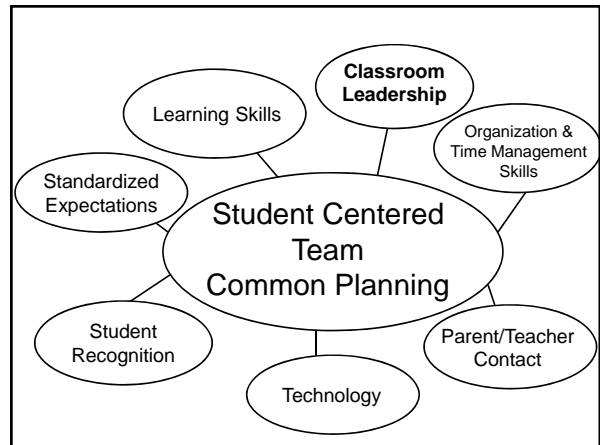
**Changing the Image of Teachers
with the Power of Four**



Learning Skills



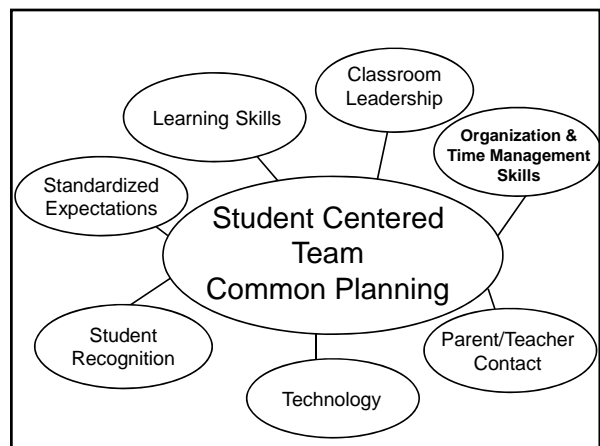
- Responsibility is the Content
- The Role of Failure
- Choice not Chance/SLANT
- CBUPO (Richard Sagor)
- Victim Statements
- ZAP – Zeros aren't permitted
- Pyramid of Success (John Wooden)




Classroom Leadership

Effective management without leadership is like straightening the deck chairs on the Titanic.
-Stephen Covey

- Seating Charts
- Daily grade clipboard/ Yellow Sheet
- Do Now assignments
- One binder for all teamed classes

Cornell Notetaking




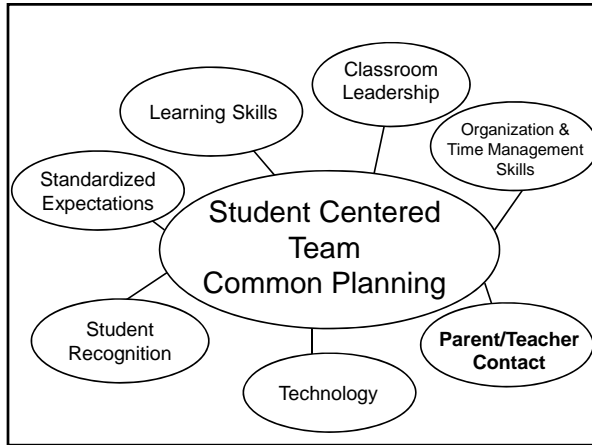
Students write questions on the left.	Students take notes as they normally would on the right hand side
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Reflection: Make associations, agree/disagree, compare, synthesize, ask questions

Organization & Time Management

Student Assignment Book


- Daily Assignments
- Record of Achievement
- Attendance Calendar
- School rules/Who to see
- School Calendar
- Hall Pass

Parent/Teacher Contact

Teams make teachers more available to parents -

- Team Period for Parent Conferences
- Teacher Email Links on Team Website

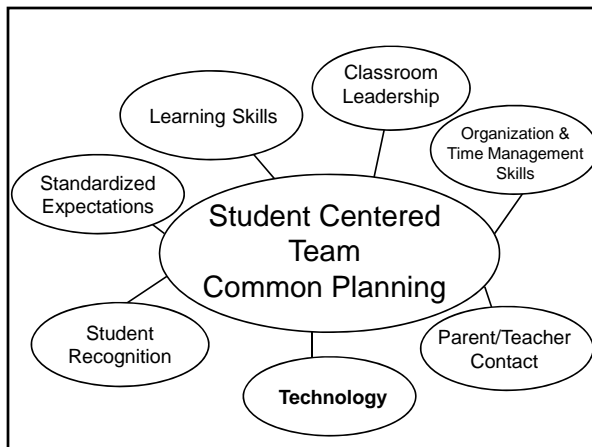


Teams allow teachers to get information to parents -


- Weekly Emails, Progress Reports, Homework Hotlines

Team can host/lead special events -

- Freshman Orientation
- Success Prep Conferences



Technology



Communicating with parents:

- Homework hotline; Progress reports; Weekly emails; Email links on team website

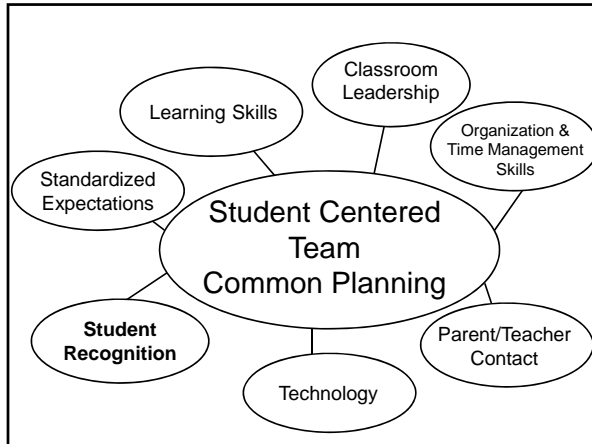
Communicating with students:

- Using electronic grade books; Progress reports; Archived work on team website

Recognizing Students:

- Presentations of student activities; Pictures on team website

Excellent Instruction



Student Recognition

Recognition of freshmen in the classroom:

- Bravo's
- Classroom halls of fame

Recognition of freshmen on the team:

- Students of the week
- End-of-the-year assembly

Making school "cool" for freshmen:

- Incentive program



Support Services

Multiple Points of Entry

Resources already in existence

- Grants, under-utilized programs

Big Events/ Opportunities:

- Amnesty Day

Credit Recovery:

- Recovery School



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