

Promoting Student Success via the Freshman Seminar Handbook

Executive Summary

This report summarizes the organization of the Freshman Seminar Handbook created in collaboration of Ellet High School's National Honor Society, the administration of Ellet High School, and the Character Counts Grant Program.

Recommendation. Copies of the handbook should be printed and bound and distributed to freshmen, their parents, and to the teachers of freshmen at Ellet High School.

Conclusion. Based on the data in the grant proposal, 43% of freshmen were found to be retained or did not graduate with their class. The seminar program and handbook will offer students, their parents, and their teachers an educational tool to guide students in their study habits.

Summary of Findings. Included in the handbook are handouts on the following topics:

- Making Good Use of Your Student Planner
- Time Management
- Learning Styles
- High Stakes Testing
- Active Listening
- Note Taking
- SQ3R and Reading Your Textbook
- Graphic Organizers
- Writing Strategies
- Math Problem Tips
- Resources for Research and Vocabulary Building
- Memory Strategies
- Study Habits
- Test Taking Tips
- Oral Presentations
- Managing Stress
- 100 Book Challenge
- Extra Curricular Activities

All of the above handouts can and will be used by the National Honor Society members as they present various breakout sessions in the seminar. If reinforced by parents and teachers, these skills can become habits as the skills are regularly and consistently used.

The grant proposal also recommends an end of year evaluation to determine if students did use the various strategies and if they found success. This information will provide necessary information for updating the handbook for future use.