

8th Grade Signature Experience: Self and Community Impact and Transition

Overview

In eighth grade, the signature experience focuses on **Self and Community Impact and Transition**. Students identify a community problem, research solutions, and develop an actionable plan through the lens of a chosen career field. This year-long, interdisciplinary initiative serves as a capstone, showcasing each student's readiness to transition to high school.

The Journey: Four Key Touchpoints

Students progress through four key "touchpoints" to refine their project and career focus:

1. **Self and Community Discovery: Finding your passion, purpose, and place:** Students begin by exploring their personal interests and identifying their connection to the community.
2. **Exploration to Action: Positively impacting your community through passion and career exploration:** Students connect their career aspirations to real-world community issues.
3. **Projects to Purpose: Connects ideas to strengthening a community:** Students research solutions and build an actionable plan to address their chosen issue.
4. **From Discovery to Impact and Prepared for High School:** Students finalize their projects and prepare to present their findings.

The Culminating Experience: Transition Capstone - Portrait of a Graduate Showcase

The year concludes with a formal **Transition Capstone Showcase**, where students present their solutions to a judging panel.

- **The Goal:** Students demonstrate their ability to combine research, career skills, and community action to advocate for positive change.
- **The Showcase:** Students present their projects using digital presentations or tri-fold boards, explaining the significance of a community problem and the actions they took to address it.
- **The Experience:** During a formal presentation event, a panel of educators and community partners evaluates the projects, followed by a Q&A session where students discuss their work and potential project enhancements.

How Families Can Support

- **Discuss Career Connections:** Ask your student about the career field they chose for their capstone and how it helps them address the community issue they are studying.
- **Encourage Action:** Support your student as they work through their research and planning phases, helping them focus on the impact of their proposed solutions.
- **Attend the Showcase:** We invite you to attend the school-level showcase to see your student's formal presentation, hear from the judging panel, and celebrate their readiness for high school.