

Lower Lake High

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Subject: Engagement, Mentoring, Connectedness

Practice: Link Crew

Link Crew from a Student's Point of View

This Lower Lake High School success story was written by a senior who is a Link Leader and has been in the program for two years.

Link Crew at Lower Lake High School is a helpful program we use to assist freshman throughout the school year. We concentrate on helping the freshman with whatever struggles they are having, and try to make the first year at the high school exciting.

Since the schedule for the lunches at our school are separated between freshman and sophomores, and then juniors and freshmen, it makes it easier for us to talk to them. During the upperclassmen 5th period, the link leaders are able to go out and talk to the freshman during the freshman lunch. Every day the link leaders are informed with information about upcoming events, or a topic to talk to them about. The topics the link leaders are given to inform the freshman about are things such as throwing away your garbage, tutoring in the library every day, or how they are doing in school. Every day, from the Link Crew class, we have at least two tutors go in the library for any freshman seeking help.

Link Crew also hosts fun events throughout the school year, some supporting the school's athletic teams. Some of the events we host are, Pack the Stands. Pack the Stands is self explanatory. We try to encourage freshmen to attend sports games and fill the bleachers with blue and white! Another event we do is our annual Tailgate party. During halftime of the junior varsity football game, we bring food and games and set up next to the football field with as many as trucks as we can get, so freshman can sit on the tailgate! We try to inspire the freshman to get involved with the school as much as we can.

Before school starts, everyone must go to orientation to get set up for the school year. Link crew hosts the orientation, so the link leaders are able to connect with the freshman they're assigned with. Two days before orientation, link leaders train to learn the activities to teach to their freshman. Every activity has a moral behind it. For about four hours, the link leaders are able to make a relationship between them and their freshman. When the first day of school starts, we wear our link crew shirts so if a freshman is lost or needs help, they can look for the bright red shirt and receive some help.

The program we have running here is very important, because it gives freshmen the role model they need. It gives them help whenever they need it, and a friend. Throughout the year we encourage them to get involved and learn to show support for our school. They are the next

generation and we help them, so that maybe when they're upper class men, they'll want to be a link leader also, so they can give the encouragement and support they got when they were a freshman.