



# Making up credit & lost learning.

Also: bonus discussion of...  
Relationships Are Everything!

# Sharon Jensen (about me...)



I have years of educational experience at the secondary level.

- Teacher and coach for 17 years; middle & high school.
- 11 years as an Assistant Principal both middle and high school.
- 3 years as principal of West Jordan Middle School.
- 7 years as principal of Valley High School.
- Now with Student Support Services for Jordan School District.

# Sharon Jensen (about me...)



- Just as important; parent and grandparent of busy kids.
- My philosophy of learning and teaching can be summed up in 5 short words...
  - It Is All About Relationships!

# My philosophy is “It is all about Relationships!”



- “Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.” Aristotle
- Great teachers focus not on compliance, but on connections and relationships.” PJ Caposey in Education Week Teacher
- No significant learning occurs without a significant relationship.”  
Dr. James Comer

# COVID learning loss?



- What are the long term effects?
- Socially, emotionally, and academically?
- No one knows yet, we will have folks studying this for years.

*The reassuring thing is **everyone** experienced this event in some form; every person has been affected in some way.*

# COVID credit loss?



- All students in grades 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> must pass 7 or 8 classes each quarter to be on track for their graduation.
- Each F, I, NG, NC contributes to a student's lack of readiness and results in a “not on track” to graduate.
- Low grades often correlates to low understanding or non-mastery of core subjects.
- We know failure rates have escalated during the last 5 quarters of school due to COVID & loss of in-person learning.

# Remediation or Credit Recovery?



- Remediation are classes to make up lost learning and strengthen mastery of foundational knowledge and skills.
- Credit Recovery is for students in the 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades.
- Credit Recovery is very similar to remediation but is specifically designed to recover credit for classes that have been failed in the past.

# Remediation/Recovery classes



- Every school district will have some remediation and credit recovery classes this summer. Some schools have been doing CR this year.
- These will differ slightly but all will be at no cost to families this summer due to funding for the
- **Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief.**
  - **ESSER funding (Part of the CARES Act)**
- **Some districts will have a program at every one of their schools.**
- Nutrition Services may be available at many schools.
- Summer feeding sites will still exist in every district.



# How can you help right now?



- Research what will be available in your neighborhood schools, your school feeder area, and in your district.
- Advertise the availability of those programs to your friends and neighbors in EVERY way possible.
- Make a personal out reach to at least 3 families who may need these free services.

# Non traditional credits



- These may vary slightly district to district but did you know that credit towards a diploma may be earned through the following activities?
  - Work Release
  - Internships / job shadowing experiences
  - Participation in outside of school sports (gymnastics, rodeo, etc.)
  - Participation/completion of counseling & therapy programs.
  - Participation/completion of physical therapy for injuries.

# Technical Programs



Almost every district has a technical program where students earn high school credit while learning skills & certifications.

Examples: auto collision repair, barbering, CNA, computer programming, dental assisting, diesel mechanics, digital media, EMT, engineering, fire science, landscaping, medical assistant, nail tech, pharmacy tech, surgical tech, vet tech, welding.

# Non traditional credits (continued)



- Any student can go to a designated testing center to earn credit through testing. (All schools accept the credit.)
- **State Demonstrated Competency Assessment**
- For students in grades 9-12
- May not have taken any portion of the course at an accredited Utah School before testing.
- No cost for the exams
- Students may take the test once per year if they do not pass.
- No letter grade is awarded, only the P and credit toward graduation.
- **NCAA *may not accept credit.*** Check with your university and NCAA.
- Utah Regent's Scholarship does accept results.

# Non traditional schools



Almost every district has an Alternative School.

What do Alternative Schools have in common?

- Fewer students in the school/smaller school size.
- Small class size and emphasis on personal relationships.
- A variety of credit recovery options.
- Fewer credits for the diploma. (24 credits vs 27/28)
- Generally, the teachers are flexible and focused on personalized learning for their students.

**Please become familiar with your district's Alternative School.**

Use the **School Counselor** as your resource



- The school counselor is the most familiar with your student's graduation credits & requirements.
- They are the expert at earning non traditional credits.
- They are often the referral to other district programs.

Email them often for information specific to your teen.

**Be persistent.**

Be sure to make an appointment if you need to meet with them by zoom or in person.

# Relationships are everything!



It is simple human nature...

- Students don't want to learn unless the teacher likes them.
- No one wants to be around someone who doesn't like them.
- No employee works harder for a boss/manager that does not like them.

***Humans are social creatures and we respond better to love & warmth.***

# Relationships are everything!



- Students respond to educators who smile, exhibit kindness and warmth.
- Students need educators who know their names and remember personal information about them.
- Students will work hard for a teacher who loves them but also has high expectations.
- Some studies refer to this type of teacher as a “Warm Demander.”



# Relationships are everything!



When conflicts or poor judgement happens:

- Students want a chance to tell their side of the story.
- Students have a deep need to be listened to and understood.
- Students want disciplinarians who see their potential and don't judge them for who they are in this moment.

# Relationships are everything!



- How do you nourish the relationships in your sphere?
  1. Get to know them as a person and ask about their lives.
  2. Make that weekly phone call, Facetime or visit.
  3. Express your gratitude often.

# My gratitude for you!



- As previously stated, educators are so very grateful for everything that you do on behalf of all of the students in your community.
- Our schools could not be the wonderful places that they are without your love, energy, and the countless volunteer hours from you and your colleagues in the Utah PTSA!



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