

**NORTH TONAWANDA HIGH SCHOOL  
School-Based Plans  
2008-2009**

**DISTRICT FOCUS AREA:** (Transition) – School Counseling Department

**GOAL #1** This is a 2-year goal (carried forward from 07-08) to better understand the needs of incoming freshman, and respond to those needs through a written guide in an effort to create a more comfortable and successful transition to high school.

**Overall Progress as of 1/08** – We continue to research the internet for information on content that would be most beneficial to parents and students as they prepare for the rigors and expectations of high school. We have obtained some suggestions and materials from area high schools and have developed a transition survey that will be administered to current freshmen the second semester of the 07-08 school year. The results of this survey will help highlight topics as a tool in the development of this survival guide. This material will be incorporated into a booklet of helpful and needed information in the transition to high school, and distributed at the 2009 orientation.

**9/18/08 – Progress up to this date** - Survey was created, distributed, completed and collected from freshman (class 2011). Information from other sources (schools, internet, etc.) has been collected. A committee of School Counselors will begin reviewing and discussing the gathered information this fall (08) in preparation of developing a parent guide to be distributed at the August 09 freshman orientation.

OBJECTIVES/ OUTCOMES	ACTION PLANS/STRATEGIES	TIME/PERSON RESPONSIBLE	HOW ACTIONS WILL BE MONITORED, EVALUATED	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
1.) To research the needs and concerns of incoming freshman as they begin their high program.	<p>1.) To gather information/opinions through a survey from new students to NTHS; research from teachers, administration, other school counseling departments, the Internet, etc.</p> <p>Survey has been completed and will be distributed 2<sup>nd</sup> semester through 9<sup>th</sup> grade English classes. Several high schools contacted regarding materials they may use to assist in the transition from 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade.</p> <p>AMHERST: No guide provided. They take the entire 9<sup>th</sup> grade class out for a 2-day program at a camp. Faculty put on the ropes course as well as other workshops relating to the transition process (study skills, involvement, assertiveness, etc.)</p> <p>STARPOINT: A guide is provided which is</p>	6/08 (MG, MM, JH, RD) Data		Researching other local high schools transition guide, the internet, NTHS 9 <sup>th</sup> grade students, etc.

<p>2.) To create a survival guide for incoming students to help create a more comfortable and smooth transition to NTHS.</p>	<p>distributed at their orientation. They will be sending us a copy to review.  ROYALTON HARTLAND: They distribute a 3 ring binder at orientation that includes: brochures developed by each department, a map of the school, teachers' names and emails. The faculty puts on a study skills presentation for all 9th graders.  KENMORE EAST: They hand out brochures/information created from each department. In the summer a 2-day program that consists of meeting teachers, getting schedules, club sign-up, and a scavenger hunt is put on. After 1<sup>st</sup> marking period counselors meet with 9<sup>th</sup> graders individually to assess how transition is going.  NIAGARA WHEATFIELD: Have tried many things over the past 4 years (10 principals over this time span). These programs include: movie about the school, movie called A Day in the Life of a Freshman, A club/activity fair, power point on graduation requirements, athletic policy, etc., tours, hot dog roast with freshman mentors speaking with new students, and various workshops. The only handouts were brochures from the various departments tailored to freshman.</p> <p>2.) A committee of school counseling professionals will analyze the research and develop a survival guide for new students entering NTHS.</p> <p>3.) To produce, publicize, distribute the survival guide.</p>	<p>08-09 School Year Analysis</p> <p>8/09 Orientation – implementation of guide</p>	<p>1.) Results of survey</p> <p>2.) Implementation of Survival Guide</p>	
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