

Hello Teachers and Staff,

This is a reminder that the week after conferences (March 12 – 16) is March Madness Week at Blaine Middle School. The purpose of March Madness week is to use the NCAA basketball tournament as a vehicle to generate awareness of college among middle school students. It is a way for us to fulfill part of the mission of the GEAR UP grant. GEAR UP stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs. It is our hope that we can begin to create and sustain a culture of college awareness at the middle school and create a climate of belief that all students can attend a post secondary school with hard work and determination. March Madness Week is simply a way to expose students to different colleges in the United States.

The hope is that each class will research a college from the NCAA tournament together and create a banner that will be put on display for all students to view. We will kick off the week with an assembly where each class will pick a college to research. Through out the week it will be important for classes to watch the announcements, which will prompt what information you will add to your banner each day. The banners should be hung outside your door through out the week for students to view. The week will end with an assembly where all classes will display the college banners they created. An outline of what will happen this week is provided follows and explains what will happen in and outside of the classroom this week.

March Madness Week	
Activities to be done with your 1 st period class only.	
Day 1 3/12	<p>2:00 – 2:30 Assembly (academy schedule) Pick one representative from each 1st period class to sit on stage to wait for their turn to pick a school for your class at the assembly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the morning discuss your top three picks with 1st core students. (A list of the top 20 teams will be in you mailbox Monday morning). • Return to class with your banner and color your banner with the colors of the school. Also add a picture of the school mascot and the date the school was founded. • Hang the banner outside your door.
Day 2 3/13	<p>Add the following items to your banner: city and state of the school, population of the city and school enrollment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about how the size of the school and where it is located and how that plays a role in choosing the college you went to.
Day 3 3/14	<p>Add the following to your banner: list some of the programs that the university is known for, find out the requirements to get into the college like minimum GPA, classes needed in high school, extra curricular activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about what you did to get into college.
Day 4 3/15	<p>Add housing options to your banner. For example, dorms, apartments on and off campus, a Greek system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about what type of housing arrangements you had.
Day 5 3/16	<p>Add a list of ways to pay for college to your banner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about scholarships, loans, grants, work-study, and jobs. • Talk about what you did to pay for college. <p>2:20 – 3:00 Assembly</p>

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bring finish banner to the assembly• Assign a representative from your class to bring the banner on stage for the Parade of Colleges |
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March Madness Week Kick-off Assembly

* Fight songs from colleges playing as students enter the PAC

2:20-2:25 Cabe: Assembly Expectations

2:25-2:30 Video (What Do You Want To Be When You Grow Up?)

2:30-2:35 Intro to March Madness Week (Cyndi)

- Welcome to March Madness Week! This week each 1st Core class is going to be in charge of researching one college from the NCAA basketball tournament. Together as a class you will create a pennant that you will hang on your 1st core classroom door. Today you will send your ASB representative from your first core class up here to choose the college your class would like to research. Mr. Johnson will lead you through the process now.

2:35- 2:45 Draft (Ken, Cabe) (Megan and Higgins will hand out banners)

- Ken and Cabe will draw a teacher's name out of the jar and that class rep will come on stage and state which college their class chooses. Megan and Higgins will hand the class rep the banner.

2:50 Closing (Cyndi)

- Tomorrow you will add the following items to your banner:
 - Color the banner the colors of the school
 - Add a picture of the school mascot
 - Add the date the school was established
 - Hang the banner on your door
- If we are done early, all students should head back to their 6th period classes except all CTE classes stay in the PAC.

Materials Needed for the assembly:

20 chairs lined up in a row on stage, names of teachers in a bowl, microphone, projector, screen, video, computer with college music

March Madness Week Closing Assembly

*College fight songs playing as students enter the PAC

- 2:20 – 2:25 Assembly Expectations (Darren or Molly) 1st core class reps line up against the wall in alphabetical order of the college name.
- 2:25 – 2:35 Play Pomp and Circumstance as student parade across the stage with their college banners and Mr. Bacon announces colleges as they walk on stage. Darren and Molly pick the best banner, that class is awarded Olympic points for their grade level. Students remain on stage as Cyndi sums up the week.
 - Give yourselves a hand for the work you did creating these banners.
 - We hope that seeing all of these banners on stage provides you with the awareness of how many choices you have after high school
 - It's not too early to start thinking about your future
 - The choices you make today and how you perform academically in middle school, impact the choices you have tomorrow.
 - We hope all of you will consider going to some sort of school after high school.
 - Here is a final video of your teachers talking about where they went to school.

2:35 – 2:40 Play Teacher Video

2:40 – 2:50 Balloon Basketball Game: Two grades play for 2nd and 3rd Place Olympic points.

Divide the group into two teams. Arrange two rows of chairs, or you can use the floor, approximately three feet apart. Place the large wastebasket at both ends. Seat the teams alternating players. The leader puts the balloon in play by tossing it in the middle. The players must remain seated at all times. The object of the game is to bat the balloon down the court and score a basket. As in regular basketball, when the balloon is hit out of bounds, the leader awards the other team the balloon to put in play. The game can be played for time or set a score to be reached.

Materials Needed:

Balloon

6 players from each grade

18 chairs

2 waste baskets

Thursday 3/14: Next week is March Madness Week! All next week each of our first core classes will be researching a college from the NCAA Basketball tournament. We will start the week with a fun assembly where we will pick what college we will research. If you are a college basketball fan start thinking ahead of time which college you would like to research with your class. Next week is going to be fun!

Friday 3/9: Are you excited for March Madness Week? We are! Teachers make sure you talk with your students today about a college from the NCAA tournament that you would like to research as a class next week. There is a list of the colleges in your mailbox. Each class will have the opportunity to pick one in our live draft during the assembly on Monday morning. Students, let's wear any college gear we have next Monday, or all week! I know the yearbook staff will be taking pictures, and a page in the yearbook will be devoted to March Madness Week. Get excited for March Madness Week!

Monday 3/12: March Madness Week is here! That's right, we have an assembly in the PAC this morning at 8:30! Teachers, please have in mind the top three schools your class would like to pick to research this week. Please also have let your 1st core ASB representative know they will be going on stage to pick the school for your class. Today each first core class will receive a banner. As a class you will color the banner of the school colors of the college you will choose at the assembly. You will also draw or find a picture of the school mascot and find the date the school was founded. All of this information should be added to your banner today. By the end of the day, each first core class should have a banner hanging on the outside of their door. Good luck and see you at the assembly! Don't forget to wear your college gear this week!

Tuesday 3/13: What college is your class researching for March Madness Week? Find out more about your college by adding what city and state your college is located and the size of the student population to your banner today. Don't forget to hang it outside your door! Also keep your TV's on for a special video presentation after the announcements. Let's also keep wearing our college gear!

Wednesday 3/14: It has been fun seeing all of the different college banners in the hallways and seeing students wearing their favorite college gear. Why don't we wear the colors of the college we are researching on Friday? Let's see which class has the most spirit! Teachers' don't forget today to have your 1st core class add what programs the college is known for and what the requirements to get into the college are. Talk to your students about what classes you made sure you took to get into the college you went to. Keep your TV's on for a special video after announcements again today.

Thursday 3/15: Don't forget to wear the colors of the college you are researching tomorrow! Let's see which class has the most spirit! Today add what kind of housing options are available at your college to your banner, and stay tuned for another awesome video after the announcements!

Friday 3/15: I'm wearing my the school colors of the college I'm researching, are you? Let's show our spirit today at the assembly at 2:20. Sit with your 1st core class and watch the parade of college banners. Make sure you cheer for your favorite college. Don't forget to add a list of ways to pay for your college on your banner today and have your class representative bring your banner to the assembly in the PAC today at 2:20. Keep your TV's on for the last March Madness video of the week.