

GEAR UP ACTIVITY IDEA

PIRATE FOR A DAY



Objective

The "Pirate for a Day" and "Tiger for a Day" programs, designed by GEAR UP, were created to ease the transition of middle school students to high school. The program involves eighth graders shadowing high school leadership students at Rogers High School or Lewis & Clark High School, experiencing a typical high school day to familiarize themselves with the campus, teachers, and class structure.

Procedure	Identify Key Personnel and Collaborators • Middle School GEAR UP Staff. • High School Leadership Students: These high school students are essential, as they are paired one-on-one with the visiting eighth graders to shadow them throughout the day. They serve as the "HS Student Leader" and a "future student advocate". • High School Teachers and Administrators: Their willingness to support the program is crucial for its success.	Themes
		Transitions
		Audience
		All GU students
		Grade Level(s)
		-8th graders
		Cost
		Less than 2% of the budget
		Required Materials
		- Parent/guardian instructional field trip permission form - Pirate for a day! Confirmation notice - Guide to RHS - Dear RHS Staff Member - Thank you notes
	Prep Time	
	This is a recurring program with ongoing logistical and administrative requirements.	
	Additional Notes	
	Contributed by Shaw MS/Rogers HS.	

	Determine Eligibility and Participation. Only "Future Pirates" (8th-grade students whose attendance area corresponds to Rogers High School, as indicated on the Spokane Public Schools (SPS) District map) are eligible. The program uses "one-on-one invites" to students.
	Manage Logistics and Scheduling • Frequency: The field trips occur each Tuesday. • Timing: This happens from November through March, or stated explicitly as between October and February in another source. • Group Size: Students attend in groups of 10 to ensure a more accurate and personalized experience.
	Trip Itinerary (Tuesday): • 8:45 AM: Meet in Room 152 (at Shaw Middle School). • 9:00 AM: Depart Shaw. • 9:20 AM: Begin classes at RHS. • 11:15 AM: Lunch in the cafeteria. • 1:45 PM: Dismissal from RHS. • 1:55 PM: Bus back to Shaw. • 2:15 PM: Go to 6th period (at Shaw). • Follow-up Itinerary (Friday): A follow-up lunch with GU staff at Shaw Middle School is part of the experience.

Complete Required Administrative Steps

- **Permission Forms:** Parents/guardians must complete, sign, and submit a "Parent/Guardian Instructional Field Trip Permission Form".
 - The form requires emergency contact information, the child's physician details, parent/guardian phone numbers (home, work, cell), and alternative emergency contact information.
 - It includes a statement that the school district does not provide medical insurance for the trip, and parents are solely responsible for medical expenses not covered by insurance.
 - The form also has a section to list any health concerns for the student.
- **Confirmation Notice:** Once the permission slip is processed, parents will receive a "Pirate for a Day! Confirmation Notice" specifying the exact date of their child's participation. This notice also includes a "one-of-a-kind message".
- **Cost:** The program is described as sustainable, costing less than 2% of the total budget.

Facilitate the Student Experience at Rogers High School

- **Shadowing:** The core strategy is for 8th-grade students to always shadow their recognized leadership student.
 - They always accompany them, experiencing hall passing periods, participating in classes, and eating lunch in the cafeteria.
 - "Basically, everything their HS student does, they do it with them".
- **Teacher Interaction:** RHS teachers are asked to treat the visiting students like any other High School student.
- **Student Expectations:** Visiting students are given a "Dear RHS Staff Member" note indicating they:
 - Understand it's a privilege to be there in the school and classroom.
 - Are prepared for class, willing to try their best, and participate.
 - Want to be treated like any other RHS student.
 - Express thanks for the opportunity.
- **Resources:** Shaw students are armed with their "Guide to Rogers High School". This guide includes information on dress policy, behavioral expectations, general rules and regulations (bus, cafeteria, convocations, ID cards, lost and found, personal stereos/pagers, phones, tobacco, lighters, visitors), and time management tips.

Achieve Desired Outcomes

- The program aims for students to:
 - Establish a future student advocate.

	○ Learn to navigate high school hallways/Rogers HS. ○ Get acquainted with high school teachers. ○ Experience rigorous high school classes/classes in session. Collect Feedback and Evaluate Success ● Positive Feedback: Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. ○ Students expressed eagerness to return: "I can't wait to go back to RHS. I want to be a Pirate right now!". ○ One student noted a significant reduction in fear: "Before going, I was scared. On a scale of 0-10, with zero being petrified, I was like a 2. Now, I'd say the school is super nice, and I had a blast. We'd have to use a broken scale because now I feel like I'm over a 10!". ● Student Interest in Repeating: GU staff observed that, without exception. ● Acknowledgments: Sending "Thank you" notes is a part of the process.	
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