



## ***STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET***

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**SCHOOL:** Allentown High School

**ACTIVITY:** Spirit Week

**DATE(S):** October 6, 2010 – October 15, 2010

**CATEGORY:** School Spirit

**ADVISOR NAME:** Mrs. Sweeney, Ms. Folino & Mrs. Johnson

**ADVISOR E-MAIL:** folinol@ufrsd.net

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### **PROVIDE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THIS PROJECT:**

Our Spirit Week is based on a competition between classes, in which points are awarded based on success in each activity. Class officers and advisors are in charge of the responsibilities for each class whereas Student Council coordinates all activities. The school has one theme and each class picks a subcategory that relates to that general theme. For instance, this year's theme was "Reality Television Shows". The Seniors picked Survivor, the Juniors picked The Bachelor, the Sophomores picked Dancing With The Stars and the Freshmen picked American Idol.

### **DESCRIBE THE PLANNING & EXECUTION OF THIS PROJECT:**

Much planning goes into this activity. There is a meeting with class officers and advisors in June where the theme is picked. Then at the summer meeting for Student Council jobs are assigned for each event. The week starts with the Penny Race. Each class is given a large jug which is put in the main cafeteria during all lunch periods for one week. Students put pennies in their own class' jug and put all other silver coins or dollar bills into the other class' jugs. Every penny counts as one positive point and each silver coin counts as one negative point. At the end of the week, the class with the most points wins the penny race. The next event is the Red & Black Show where teachers judge a fifteen minute skit done by each class. Three official practices in the auditorium, as well as many planning sessions for this event are held. During every practice, there is a Student Council member present to make sure the content of the skit is appropriate. During the two weeks leading up to the show, Student Council members sold tickets during school for \$3. The tickets cost \$5 at the door. There is also a poster competition in which each class can submit up to 5 posters. These 12 x 18 posters will promote school spirit and be judged on neatness, originality and creativity. The 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Spirit Week consists of the Spirit Days. Every day is a different spirit day that the classes participate in. This year there was hat day, class/colored shirt day, sports team shirt day, sweat pants day, and red & black day. On each spirit day, Student Council members go to their assigned homerooms to count how many students are participating. Each Student Council member writes the results each day on a tally card which is specific to each homeroom. Results are announced the next morning during A-Town Live, our school's morning television show. Another activity for the week is "spirit links". The object of this activity is for your class to have the longest chain. Each class is assigned a color. The students are able to buy one link for the chain during lunches for 25 cents. Members of the Student Council put the links together. During the pep rally the links are stretched out and compared to the other classes. At the pep rally, the points for the chains are awarded to the classes. The day of the homecoming game, Student Council hosts a pep rally. The choir sings the National Anthem, the sports teams are introduced, the cheerleaders do their routine and the homecoming candidates are introduced. (Two weeks prior to homecoming, Student Council holds homecoming nominations during all lunches and then the top five boys and girls are voted on and the winners are announced at the homecoming dance.) At 4 PM the Student Council hosts a homecoming parade. A local car dealership allows Student Council to borrow enough convertibles to

drive the homecoming candidates to the game, as part of the parade. The parade starts at our local bank and goes along Main Street until it reaches our school. Our homecoming candidates are recognized during the halftime show. At this time, the class banners are displayed and the winners are announced. (Banners are judged that day after school by teachers and community members and then after homecoming are displayed in the main cafeteria for the rest of the school year.) To end Spirit Week, the Student Council throws a homecoming dance from 8 – 11 in the gym. Student Council members come early and decorate. This semi-formal event is attended by many students and is a huge fundraiser. As you can see, much planning and organization goes into this major undertaking!

**DESCRIBE THE BENEFIT OF THIS PROJECT BENEFIT TO SCHOOL AND/OR COMMUNITY:**

When students leave high school they take with them many wonderful experiences. Our high school's annual Spirit Week undoubtedly leaves all students at Allentown High School with countless memories. During the hours of preparation and participation, relationships are formed between peers that will never be forgotten. This event brings great publicity to the school and is a great way to promote school spirit!

**EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS PROJECT, REFLECTING ON ANY POSSIBLE CHANGES YOU MIGHT CONSIDER:**

This is a wonderful event that the school relies on us to run. It is a huge undertaking and if we could do one thing different it would be to change up the Spirit Days so that it is something that appeals to everyone. Participation on those days is not always what we would want it to be so we are always looking for new ways to improve that.