

Meeting the Needs of Our Students: Individual Plans of Study

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At Holcomb High School and then Holcomb Middle School, we are prepping to launch one of the most personally meaningful approaches to providing each and every student an educational experience that will truly set that student up for success after matriculating through our school system. We are within about a month's time of rolling out to the student body the efforts to help each student create an electronic Individualized Plan of Study!

For far too long, schools would simply help the students with their graduation plans, ensuring the students had enough credits to walk across the stage at graduation. Also, we would help our students by having discussions with them about what they wanted to do for a living, but that really was about it, much is the pity. Those days are dead, or at least they are on life support, as we move to a new way of doing business to ensure our students are heading down the "proper" path for them.

The high school students (ultimately the middle school students as well) will soon be taught how to utilize a dynamic and powerful planning program called "Xello." While there are plenty of planning programs available for schools to use, we have chosen this particular one as it doesn't merely help with the tracking of credits toward graduation. Yes, it does that, but it does so much more. It also engages the students in a series of interactive introspective questionnaires that help to develop a plan of study that reflects the student's interests AND their learning styles. This is different as it helps the students play to their strengths in the course of study they develop with their families and the school system. They will be better prepared to pick classes that fit their learning styles, and even more importantly, their true interests. This is pivotal as people who pursue their passions in life never really work a single day in their lives. J

I have long said one of the HUGE advantages of a school system like Holcomb is we are perfectly situated to provide our students with an educational experience that is simply better than at districts that are larger or smaller than ours. We are large enough to have opportunities and tools for our students to enjoy, yet we are not so large that we can't keep track of each and every student. NO ONE is "falling between the cracks" here at Holcomb. Rather, we are positioned to know what motivates and lights the fires of passion for each of

our students. Xello will definitely assist us in all of this as we continue to strive to meet the needs of our students. I am pleased.