

Our Path to First Choice No. 36

Everyone,

Here is Path Note No. 36. May Day, May Day! Is spring finally here?

Our Path Topic

Quite often people say that *First Choice* is a high expectation. Perhaps it is, but why not have high expectations.

For years, schools have been criticized for not having high expectations. Although students were graduating, getting jobs, going into the military, starting businesses, going to trade schools, and going to college, schools got the rap of not setting high expectations. That's why we had No Child Left Behind and now Every Student Succeeds.

One definition says that an expectation is a belief about what might happen in the future. To have high expectations refers to any effort to set the same high standards for anyone. If we are talking education, it would be all students, a class, a school, or education system would have high expectations.

Academic high expectations are any effort to set the same high educational standards for all students in a class, school, or system. What are some common student expectations in a classroom?

- Follow classroom rules
- Be on time
- Be prepared for class
- Be considerate and respectful
- Show respect for school property and students
- Use an inside voice

You know them.

Experts say that to achieve high expectations you must:

1. Establish ambitious goals that are attainable and reasonable
2. Invest students in achieving the ambitious academic goals-- Believe that they can accomplish the goals.
3. Work purposefully and relentlessly to achieve the goals by overcoming all obstacles.
4. Deliberately and continually improve performance over time through a constant process of self-evaluation and learning. That would be looking for OFIs (Opportunities for Improvement).

First Choice is a high expectation. To believe 95% of all WASD will realize their *First Choice* when they graduate is attainable and measurable. However, we must measure where over the years of students' time with WASD their goal upon graduation...no matter what they want to do. While students go through the process of figuring out what they want to do, and reflecting their educational plan to that goal.

No matter whether we set high expectations of our students, ourselves, our parents, or the community, the high expectations will impact all of our stakeholders. So, let's continue to set high expectations.

Attached is a letter by Jeff Bezos to his shareholders. His letter provides the shareholders the high expectations and the vision of Amazon. This letter can be WASH. Success is happening at WASH, and it can continue to develop into a higher and higher standard of education and a success for all.

Events

- The high school Spring Band Concert is Thursday, May 3 at 6:30 PM.
- The high school Spring Choir Concert is on Thursday, May 10th at 6:30 PM.
- The 6th Grade Orientation Program at the middle school is Monday, May 14th at 6:30 PM.
- The high school prom is Saturday, May 12 at 7 PM.
- There is a Two-Hour Delay for students on Tuesday, May 15th.
- Graduation is on Friday, May 25th at 6:30 PM.
- The last day of school for students in May 25th.
- Schools are closed on Memorial Day—Monday, May 28th.

Review for You

- What are High Expectations?
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Piece of the Puzzle

- This week we are congratulating Catherine Hade-Myers and Sarah Hodge for their leadership and organization of the Franklin County Science Fair held at WAMS this year. Not only did they promote Waynesboro Area School District to be the site for the science fair this year, but organized the event. WASH had numerous winners thanks to these two folks. Thanks so much for all you did for science education in Waynesboro! Make sure you give Catherine and Sarah kudos when you see them!

Review Answers

- High Expectations is the phrase used that typically refers to any effort to set the same high educational standards for all students in a class, school or district. The failure to hold all students to high expectations effectively denies them access to a high-quality education. Students who are expected to learn more or perform better generally do so, while those held to lower expectations usually achieve less. The same goes for adults as those teaching and leading students and other adults.

Final Thoughts

- *High expectations are the key to everything.*—Sam Walton
- *Set your classroom expectations high, the higher the better. Expect the most fantastic things to happen, not in the future but right now.*—Robert John Meehan
- *Great teachers have high expectations for their students, but higher expectations for themselves.*—Todd Whitaker
- *If I accept you as you are, I will make you worse; however, if I treat you as though you are what you are capable of becoming, I help you become that.*—Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe
- *The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that our aim is too low and we reach it.*—Michelangelo
- *High Achievement always takes place in the framework of high expectation.*—Charles Kettering
- *Set high expectations and at a minimum you will develop the habit of performing above average.*—Sam Villanueva

Have a great rest of the week.
Tod