

Transitions

Reality High School: Passport to Success ...

About the program ...

Using a reality show format similar to that of the television show, “The Amazing Race,” 50 senior students with limited co-curricular involvement at Sinclair Secondary School became student leaders by planning and leading a day of activities in June for incoming September Grade 9 students. Planning was based on research suggesting that when students are involved in extra-curricular activities, they are more likely to attend classes regularly and to be more successful academically. The planning team identified a target group of Grade 8 students who had little or no prior extra-curricular involvement. They developed a marketing plan to attract them to the event with catchy statements such as *Would you like to run an obstacle course? Play bungee sports? Sumo wrestle? Well... you can!* Five activity-based workshops were developed that focused on extra-curricular involvement. Student passports tracked completed activities for over 100 student participants. Post-event surveys indicated that the majority planned to “get involved” and engaged in their Grade 9 year as they began their secondary education. The senior planning team received funding for the day from the ministry’s [Student Voice](#) initiative and plans to make the school’s Amazing Race an annual event with this year’s participants as next year’s leaders.



“I never knew that I could lead people like that. After that day, seeing that everybody liked what I was doing for a change, just made me want to do it more. So I didn’t quit school, and I’m graduating this fall.”

– Student Leader

Impact on student learning and school culture ...

- Student leaders were organized, engaged and proud of the jobs that they were doing, while student participants felt special, had fun and understood the importance of getting involved in school.
- Staff were involved with students in both planning and supervision for the day.
- Parent volunteers helped throughout the day and the student participants clearly demonstrated their appreciation for their help.
- Some of the student leaders re-engaged in school themselves and [increased their commitment to their own education](#).



To find out more, contact ...

Durham District School Board
Sinclair Secondary School
380 Taunton Road East
Whitby, ON L1R 2K5

Contact: Susan Jones (Vice Principal)
Phone: (905) 666-5400
Email: jones_susan@durham.edu.on.ca

School website: <http://sinclair.ddsbschools.ca/>