

“Experience Student Leadership Camp” Follow-up

About the project ...

Approximately 400 Grade 7 students from 15 elementary schools and 100 secondary student leaders from one secondary school in the St. Clair Catholic District School Board attended a leadership camp to gain outdoor recreational leadership experience rooted in a Christian culture of support and encouragement. The purpose of the character development project was to support students in putting their new learning experiences into action at their schools and in their communities when they returned from the camp. The student leadership projects took place throughout the year and included activities such as creating public service announcements, organizing intramural programs, researching social justice issues, creating positive social clubs, developing fitness programs and introducing positive behaviour programs. Both elementary and secondary camp participants also attended a follow-up retreat led by a motivational speaker who focused his presentation on how students can make a difference in their own schools.

Impact on student learning and school culture ...

- Students learned how to contribute their voices in meaningful ways by forming student councils and families of elementary school networks within which decisions were made regarding school-based outreach activities and events.
- Students developed organizational skills as they established various programs at their elementary schools and planned and implemented projects to benefit local and global organizations.
- Students became leaders and positive role models for others in their elementary schools and then further developed their leadership skills by becoming secondary school leaders when they moved into Grade 9.

Lessons learned for moving forward ...

- Cross-panel partnerships contribute to smooth transitions from elementary to secondary school as students build positive relationships with secondary students and staff in their future high schools.
- The positive impact of the student projects on school climate in both elementary and secondary schools has led to plans for their continuation.