



Positivity Project

On November 20, the Positivity Project was launched at P-TECH OHM. The Positivity Project focuses on empowering students to build positive relationships and to understand, appreciate and exemplify the character strengths in themselves and everyone they meet. The teaching of positive psychology is vital to this mission, and some of the kick-off day was spent educating students on what positive psychology is. This education will continue in classes. Students identified their own character traits by completing a survey and participated in activities around those traits throughout the day.

Since the launch of the Positivity Project was the day before the Thanksgiving Recess, students and teachers ate a Thanksgiving lunch provided by Michael T's Restaurant and the Olive Garden. Many shared what they were thankful for and enjoyed getting to know their classmates better. A big focus on the day was the hashtag #OtherPeopleMatter, which is a core component of the Positivity Project.

Students were grouped according to their character strengths and took part in a challenge in the afternoon. They brought their individual strengths, as well as materials they earned, to a new group that had to build the tallest tower they could with limited materials. There were even sabotages and extra help built into the challenge.

The launch of the Positivity Project was a culmination of a lot of planning and ideas proposed by the Student Leadership Team (SLT). The SLT met with Positivity Project coordinators Mrs. Schoff, Mrs. Warner and Mrs. Giruzzi on a weekly basis, beginning in September, to plan the event. Students were vital in launching the program and the SLT's enthusiasm, leadership and dedication to it made the day a very memorable one!

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Freshman: Carrah Sadler

Carrah is from the Westmoreland Central School District. Teachers state that "Carrah has strived for excellence since the first day of school." This applies to all areas of her school performance. She stays on top of assignments and has also made an effort to make friends and get to know others in the program. Peers recognize Carrah for her leadership and positive demeanor.



Sophomore: Nate Silverman

Nate is from the Whitesboro Central School District. Teachers describe Nate as a hard worker and confident leader. He has shown improvement already this school year. His focus on his academics is evident by his attitude in class and his willingness to do what he needs to in order to succeed.



Junior: Sabah Haji

Sabah is from the Utica City School District. Peers describe Sabah as "always on task, considerate of others and someone who puts full effort into all her work." She has demonstrated this work effort through her extraordinary performance in social studies. She is doing extremely well in Global Studies II, and is at the top of the class in college level economics.



Root Farm Challenge

The freshman class is participating in its first Industry Challenge Project. The class is working with the Root Farm to develop an interactive fitness trail for its users. Each group is working on a component of the trail. The class will then bring all of their proposed ideas together to renovate the facility. The Root Farm has worked with the P-TECH OHM program on previous projects as well as hosted multiple field trips. The Root Farm is a non-profit organization that helps people of all ages and abilities through agricultural, equine and recreational experiences.



Participation in Government

On December 7, Whitestown supervisor, Shaun Kaleta, visited Mr. Hoover’s Participation in Government class for an interview initiated and conducted by students. Students in the class are currently engaging in a project that requires them to research a problem that government can solve. The group that interviewed Mr. Kaleta is researching information related to the flooding of the Sauquoit Creek. Students will present their findings in January along with policy recommendations as part of this project.



P-TECH Principal Recognized

P-TECH OHM Principal Erica Schoff was recognized with an “Outstanding Educator” award at the Genesis Group Annual Celebration of Education on November 15. Mrs. Schoff was acknowledged for all of the work she does to ensure that P-TECH students are college and career-ready, while addressing each individual’s needs. She received multiple nominations for this award. Congratulations, Mrs. Schoff!

Upcoming Events

December 17-18
MVCC Final Exam Days

December 21
All Seniors Report to OHM BOCES

**December 24-
January 2**
Winter Recess

January 4
All Seniors Report to OHM BOCES

January 7-18
Seniors on Internships

January 11
Parent Academy II to be Shared on Buzz

January 18
Last Day of Second Marking Period

January 21
Martin Luther King Day, No School

January 23
MVCC Spring Semester Classes Begin

Happy Holidays!
From P-TECH OHM