

Connections Activity

Topic:	Why School?
Connections to Goal:	Academic
Grade Level:	9
Quarter:	1
Time Needed:	25 Minutes (one advisory session)

Handouts/Materials Provided:

- Why School? Handout
- School Mission Statement.

Summary of Activity for the Advisor: Students will understand the purpose of school and explain their own reasons for attending high school. They will become familiar with the school's mission statement.

Read/Discuss/Implement with students:

- Distribute "Why School?" Handout and Mission Statement
- Have students read the mission statement and answer the items on the handout.
- With time remaining, ask students to answer the discussion questions:
 1. Why do you think that some students take school for granted?
 2. In your opinion, what are the most common reasons students drop out of school?
 3. What advice would you give to someone who is thinking about quitting school?
 4. Many older people did not have the educational opportunities that you have. How do you think they feel when young people do not take advantage of these opportunities?

Why School?

Below is a list that educators have identified as the purposes for education. Read the list of purposes and decide which are the most important. Assign a value to each (1 to 10) with 1 being most important and 10 least important.

1. ___ Initiate the young into social customs
2. ___ Prepare the young to make money
3. ___ Improve society
4. ___ Influence the young to become contributing members of society
5. ___ Prepare the young to be lifelong learners
6. ___ Give the young technical skills
7. ___ Develop the character of youth
8. ___ Prepare an educated voting population
9. ___ Prepare youth for attending a college or university
10. ___ Foster in the young racial, ethnic, religious, occupational, and gender tolerance

1. On the lines below, write your reason(s) for attending school that are different from those listed above:

2. How do your ideas about the purpose of school agree or disagree with your school's mission statement? How would you change the mission statement if you could?

EHHS MISSION STATEMENT

East Hartford High School brings together a diverse community in a safe, respectful environment where students begin the path to success in college and careers, build on their skills and talents, and become informed, responsible citizens.