**Notes from NASSP Student Leadership Webchat**

**4/21/2020**

***What does School Spirit mean and what does it look like in action?***

**Arianna and Aiden – Yard Signs**

They set up an automated online ordering system on the Facebook page "Loudoun Seniors #allinthistogether," and with zero-contact yard pickup in Leesburg, VA.

The yard signs were developed by Arianna and Aiden with the support of their family and friends. The hashtag #allinthistogether signifies the spirit of Class of 2020, not only allows for celebrating individual students graduating this year, but also shows solidarity!

* Email loudounseniors2020@gmail.com for more information and to place an order if you are local!
* [Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/Loudoun-Seniors-allinthistogether-106283501026521/?eid=ARA7k0ZKo4J0sUKbeMOXxshmefm5DkHF1B1AWHbwPuFKK7DqpHJrOE5PoDDWwCQf8VTszGWpr3zYNWKU) for Loudoun Seniors #allinthistogether with Google order form
* <https://www.loudountimes.com/tuscarora-seniors-distribute-signs-to-unify-classmates-across-loudoun-county/image_6fa0e9b8-728f-11ea-a90c-0b443ebd0ea8.html>

*Tip*

This is also a good time for students to think about their neighboring counties and towns. Thinking about ways to connect with other students and provide care and fill community needs. Pay it forward. “Adopt-a-county.”

**Kristi West**

We want school to be a place that feels like “home.”

Pep rallies and footballs, we miss those. But realize that even those in-person events, represented attendance from only a percentage of your school community.

*Tips*

* Activate your student leaders for ideas, always. They are ready for action.
* Have your student leaders check in on those students and families you are having a hard time reaching or not sure how they’re doing.
* Don’t do this alone. Go to the Adviser Online Community at NASSP, NatStuCo, and NHS, find other activity advisers and share ideas, collaborate.
* Create opportunities for social gatherings. Online Pictionary,
* Make activities meaningful, don’t just make people do busy work. Ask yourself, why are we doing this? Is this helping us, others?

**Rashaan Davis**

* School spirit is a “feeling.” And school spirit means there’s a community. You have to build a community. It doesn’t happen overnight.
* There is not one way or one thing that defines school spirit.
* Don’t forget to celebrate wins! That builds up a community.
* Create opportunities to exhale together. Yes, it’s great to accomplish things, but sometimes you just need to BE together. That builds community.
* CELEBRATE! Realize that we have so much to celebrate in a school and we don’t do it evenly, enough, or as big as we should. Validates students’ experiences.

**Kambar Khoshaba**

* My goal as principal with my team is make each year “the best year in each child’s life” for school. Focus on the present and making it real and matter for each and every student. That means you change what you do each year because it’s all about people.
* School Spirit = Relationships
* Relationships require trust
* Middle schoolers need to learn about school spirit and believe in it early. They become high schoolers! It’s a pipeline.
* When middle schoolers aren’t engaging, it’s a “heart” issue, not a head one.

***Other Tips and Ideas***

**Pick up the Phone-Woohoo calls!**

Engage student leaders to pat each other on the back for making it through a tough week. After AP tests are over, at the end of a quarter, the first time they log onto a live learning session, etc. Have students call each other up and say, “Just calling to say hi and great job today.”

Builds social skills for this generation of students. Good for the caller and the receiver of that call.

**Post It**

Not the sticky kind. Mail a letter or postcard. Everyone is surprised to receive mail. Especially when it’s easy enough to send an email to say, “You rock” or “I’m just checking in on you.”

Many of our elementary honor societies have used letter writing as a great way for students to build storytelling skills and also connect with people in their community. Have students write to older members of their community who may be lonely in senior homes, or students in a different

***Shared from Puerto Rico***

#HonorDanceChallenge and other social media challenges are a fun way to get students to share their fun side while sharing stories with one another

**Games to play online together**

* Pictionary
* Charades
* Kahoot.com for Trivia
* Words with Friends
* Finish that Lyric
* Jackbox Games (PG / G-rated versions)