

OMAK GEAR UP

OCTOBER 2008

LINK CREW FOR FRESHMAN

The first day of school for the freshman was unlike any first day of school that Omak High has ever experienced. It was amazing and it was all because of a program called Link Crew.

Link Crew is a leadership program that connects upper-classmen with freshman. These juniors and seniors establish relationships with the freshman and help to make them feel like an important part of the high school community. They are leaders who are positive role models and support people. They help prepare freshman for success by helping teach such things as

time management, conflict management, instructions on how to use school resources, and encourage students to go to school events. The intention is to help increase freshman success academically and socially.

This program was able to start at Omak High School because David Kirk who had not only been trained in it but knew it was one of the keys to freshman success. He had a wonderful support team of Andy Oliver, Don Kinkaid and Jessica Smith and 24+ students who volunteered there time and energy to be part of something wonderful for the incoming freshman.

These upper-classmen had to volunteer 3 long days at the end of summer in order to prepare for the first day of school. They learned how to lead ice-breakers and bonding activities with their assigned freshman.

Omak freshman had the best first day of school because of dedicated link leaders and staff. The relationships that have been made continue to grow. There are plans to have more activities in the near future that link the leaders with the freshman. If you have any questions or want to be a volunteer with Link Crew please call the Gear up room.

Points of Contact:

High School

826-5150

Principal:

John Belcher:

V. Principal:

David Kirk

Counseling office:

826-8531

Darryl Moulton

Tanya Peterson

Middle School

826-2320

Principal:

Jim Saltness

Vice Principal

Joe LaGrou

Counselor:

Don Kinkaid

GEAR UP Site Director

Jessica Smith

826-8327

HOME
OF
THE
PIONEERS

THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

Stephenie Bertram

If you have ever been a Gear-up tutor or student you may know what Gear Up means, but if not let me tell you. Gear-Up means gaining early awareness and readiness for undergraduate programs.

Each year high school students who would like to be tutors sign up for a class where they have an opportunity to work with 6th – 10th graders in any subject.

They also get to take a class at Wenatchee Valley College Omak where they earn a college credit

learning how to tutor younger students.

Being a Gear-Up tutor is one of the best experiences that I have ever had. My name is Stephenie Bertram. I have been a Gear-Up tutor since my freshman year. I am now a junior at Omak High School.

I enjoy working with the students in Ms. Johnston's English class. I enjoy watching each student excel in a subject they have troubles in. I like knowing that I can help those students reach their goals.



LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO SOME OF OUR TUTORS

There is currently 16 high school tutors in teachers classes right now. Let me share with you some of their experiences so far.

"I like tutoring because I like productive interaction and watching the students improve." Caitlin Calvert 12th grade in Mrs. Cumming' Class.

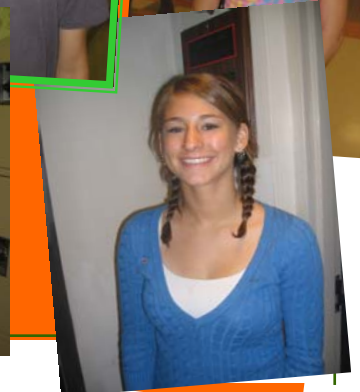
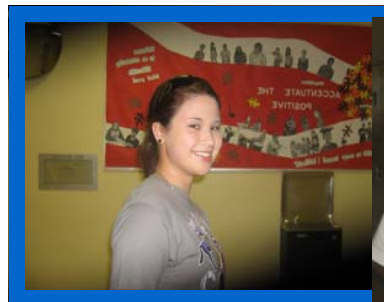
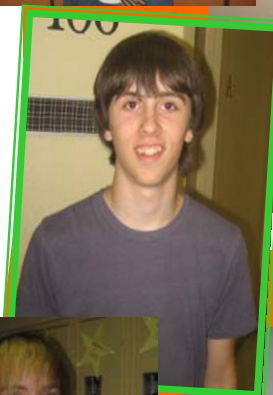
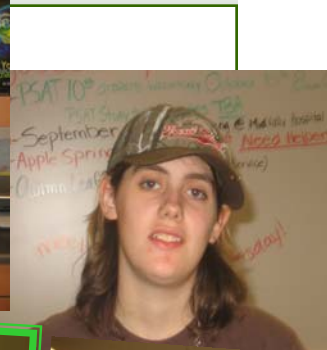
"I like helping the students complete tasks" Christian Menendez, 9th grade is in Mr. Ballinger's 7th grade LAP math class.

"It is harder than I thought it would be but it has broadened my perspective " Jaime Dienst 11th grade is in Ms. Larsen's 7th grade English class.

"I see tutoring as a sort of duty, and enjoy it from the immense satisfaction of helping students to tap into their deeper thinking skills. My mission is teaching students to ap-

ply themselves while their minds are impressionable, and watching their attempts to grow. I have never agreed with coasting through school and I will continue to try and make a difference in shaping the abilities of students, even if I only succeed with one it will be worthwhile." Brandon Black, 12th grade is in Patty Larsen's 8th grade class.

"I am so proud of each of the tutors for their dedication to the students and teachers they are working for. They are part of giving back and making our learning community a better place!!" Jessica Smith Gear-up tutor advisor.



STUDENTS VOLUNTEER FOR AUTUMN LEAF RUN / WALK EVENT

Christian Menendez

Omak Gear-Up is in its second year of volunteering to aid the Okanogan Valley's Autumn Leaf Run by preparing games for children, running the sign-in tables, distributing t-shirts to the participants, and other miscellaneous tasks. Every Wednesday, Gear-Up works to prepare for the run. Doing tasks like making posters, attending meetings at Mid Valley Hospital, and procur-

ing materials for the children's entertainment. We have already collected 30+ applications for the run by attending community events such as the Farmers Market in Okanogan. 12 Gear-Up students went to the "bag stuffing" night at Mid-Valley hospital on Oct. 1st and helped get the participant bags ready for the day of the event. "It was tons of fun" said one student. Please sign up to volunteer for Oct. 11th in the Gear-Up room. We will be meeting at 8a.m. on day of event.



Community working together to create a better future!

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM ROCKS!

Alberto Corrales & Stephenie Bertram

Gear-Up is an after school program that is on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursday from 3:00 – 4:30. This program provides tutoring for students with their homework. This year we are doing a lot of fun activities like making posters for Autumn Leaf Run and pre-registering people for the Autumn Leaf Run. On October 11, Gear-Up volunteers are going to help on the day of this

event. Monthly students are welcome to join Gear-up in going to go to Apple Springs to have fun with the residents. Gear-up also does cool stuff like paying for the PSAT for the 10th graders and working with career path services. We are also looking forward to college bound field trips to places like WSU, CWU, Western, Spokane Community College and more. Anybody that is having homework problems should stop by and check it out. You will not only be able to keep up in

your school work you will be able to participate in fun activities.



APPLE SPRINGS VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Memo Contreros, Alberto Corales, & Maribel Castillo.

On Monday September 29th 9 of us went to Apple Springs Retirement Center and played games with the residents. We had good laughs and good times. The boys played poker with Elmer. Elmer is a veteran from the Navy and Army. He and

Christian totally beat us. "You should have seen my stash" said Christian. The girls played either wheel of fortune or bowling wii. "It's actually pretty fun." said Maribel. We are going to go again next month. It should be lots of fun. Talk to Ms J if you want to sign up to go!!



OCTOBER 2008

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Room A155 in High School

WE'RE ON THE WEB:

<http://www.cwu.edu/~ovgearup/>



GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness & Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is a nationwide program encouraging all students to pursue and succeed in post secondary education. The Omak GEAR UP program currently provides services to ALL students in the 8th, 9th, and 10th grades. Services include college field trips; cohort events; after school program; tutoring, homework assistance; access to technology, GED, and ESL courses for parents; teacher professional development; and many other activities. For more information, contact the GEAR UP

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ESL Classes:

Tuesday & Thursday

Starting October 14

After School Program

Tuesday—Thursday 3—4:30 p.m.

Tutoring and homework help.

Come prepared.

Game Club:

Fridays 3—4:30p.m.

W/ Don Kinkaid in OMS

Autumn Leaf Run / Walk Event

Wednesday Oct 1st. 5—7pm at
Mid Valley Hospital: Help stuff
bags for the event.

Day of Event Oct.11th. Meet at
Food Depot at 8a.m. We will be

helping with registration, children's
activities, & More.....

Apple Springs:

Monday Oct. 20th. 3:30—4:30.

Expanding Your Horizons Spokane:

Saturday October 25th. Register in
the Gear-up room.

Homeboy goes to Harvard:

High School Assembly in the O-
Zone October 28th 2:00 - 3:00.

Inside the Box

November 1st at 9a.m.

This is a computer class for stu-
dents. After you finish the class
you get a computer for only \$25.
Sign up Now!!

