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**MAPCS Academy of Hospitality and Tourism**

**Policies & Standards**

1. **Open Choice Enrollment Process**: The MAPCS Academy of Hospitality and Tourism (AOHT) accepts students based on interest rather than academic record. Students are eligible even if they have a low GPA.
2. **NAF Standards:**

**Graduation requirements for AOHT students:**

* 1. Complete at least 4 courses
  2. Complete a sequenced set of work-based learning experiences.
     1. The AOHT develops and offers students a sequenced set of work-based learning experiences that culminate in high quality compensated internships.
  3. Complete paid internship

**Career awareness**:

* 1. All AOHT students receive career-themed guidance on college exploration and college choices based on their individual interests
  2. Students are involved with activities that help them understand how school relates to the world of work. Classroom experiences link the theme to academic coursework and to career content that will assist them in entering the field.

**Career exploration:**

1. Students have direct interaction (actual or virtual) with professionals from the hospitality and tourism industry that provide the opportunity for two-way communication between the partner and the student.
2. All students are involved in activities that provide a full understanding of the range of occupations within their AOHT’s industry including skills and education required.

**Career preparation:**

1. Students have direct, systematic interaction with the professionals from industry over a period of time at a level of depth sufficient to enable students to develop and demonstrate specific knowledge and skill.
2. Students participate in selecting their internship based on their interests.

**Work-based learning:**

1. Work-based learning is an educational approach that engages students in real world activities by linking learning in the workplace to learning in the classroom.
2. Work-based learning intentionally promotes students’ exposure and access to future education and career opportunities. The work-based learning program includes interactions with employers, from career exploration discussions to mentoring, field trips, and job shadowing, to internships.

**Evaluation process for work-based learning:**

1. Student performance is evaluated by the partners and the teacher/coordinator before, during and after any work-based learning activity, such as job shadowing, presentations. The student internship experience is evaluated through the internship assessment.

**Compensated Internship:**

1. Students are compensated for internships, which may include a salary, stipend, credit or other appropriate solutions, related to the AOHT of Hospitality and Tourism theme.

**Project-based Learning:**

1. Project-based learning is a teaching method that engages students by focusing on complex questions or problems and having them investigate answers to problems over an extended period of time, often resulting in presentations or products.
2. The duration of the project is at least two to four weeks
   1. Projects may specify products or services that solve problems, explain dilemmas, or present information generated through investigation, research, or reasoning.
   2. Uses performance-based assessments that communicate high expectations, present rigorous challenges, and require a range of skills and knowledge.

**College Preparation:**

1. The AOHT intentionally builds the college knowledge of students, helping them understand the post-secondary system and culture, research college options, and navigate issues such as testing, applications, and financial aid.
2. All AOHT students take a program of study that makes them at least eligible for admission to a state college.
3. Students in the AOHT have access to multiple post-secondary education options through articulation agreements, industry certifications, dual enrollment, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate courses, and other formal activities.

**Data Collection:**

* 1. The AOHT collects, analyzes and reports student data including characteristics (grade level, gender, race/ethnicity, ESL) and performance on a variety of outcome measures to make comparisons to the high school, in general.
  2. Data review by the advisory board, AOHT leadership, and school administration is an integral component of the continuous improvement cycle of the AOHT.