

# **STUDENT FORUMS AT CANMORE COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL: FUTURES PLANNING 2007/08 (Approx. 105 participants from grades 9, 10 & 11)**

Note: Highlighted areas indicate ideas that were expressed repeatedly

## **Question #1: What skills and qualities will you need?**

Balance

Living accommodation

Stress management, balanced, calm

Prioritize

Punctuality

Confident

Source of income

Self motivation, motivated

Dedication, determination and stamina

Enthusiastic

Passionate

Wisdom

Perseverance

Able to multitask

Social skills

Time management

Able to overcome obstacles

Able to focus

Job knowledge

Good grades; graduate high school; acceptance into a post-secondary school

Education: University degree or other post secondary, and trade schools

A plan (taking the right courses)

Communications skills

Friendliness

Good at: english, math, science, social, art

Trade skills

Artistic

Able to live alone

Know people in the industry you want to work in

People skills

Good planning skills

Honesty

Flexible and adaptable

Be productive

Have a bike

Driving skills

Willpower (be focused, have goals)

Financial skills: budgeting, how to save money through job and savings account; how to manage money, how to use it responsibly, how to invest it

Creativity, discipline and understanding

Listening skills

Literate

Partners and relationships, have friends

Free will

Social connections – love and trust

Have a career

Open minded and understanding

Hard working and reliable, strong work ethic

Compassionate and empathetic

Cooperative

Outdoor skills

Organization skills

Management skills: time and money

Prepared for difficult situations

Teamwork

Lifewise

Good language skills

Effective speaking skills

Culturally conscious

Social conscience

Healthy, physically active and fit, hygiene

Mental health and awareness

Smart in science and math

Mathematics is important for everything

Healthy and happy

Able to relate to other people, including kids

Mentally stable

Cool

Good sense of humour

Respectful

Independent

Use of technology, including computer skills

Handy, good with your hands

Smart

Able to take risks

Maturity

Good memory

Greatness

Positive attitude

Life skills (e.g. shopping, cooking, budgeting)

Constant interest in learning more

Decision-making skills

Have more than just your own success in mind

Cultural awareness – current events, global awareness

Good study habits

## **Question #2: How can school best prepare you for that future?**

More time to do schoolwork during class time, rather than needing to take home as homework; need time for other activities or relaxation to keep life balanced and not too stressful (need balance between school and personal life)

More test study time, or in-class review time

Less homework – we are very active in the community and in extracurricular activities

Spend time in class to understand subject fully, then less need for after school homework

Less homework = less stress = more focus

We could use study groups

Have a study period or a ‘homework class’ with a teacher as supervisor to do work at school instead of home

Help build knowledge on post secondary education options

Opportunity to talk with career professionals in the community

There is a distance between the administration and the students - students don't feel listened to

Keep dangerous students out

Make a more peaceful and caring environment

Better teachers and better instruction:

- grading by work ethic and quality, not personal opinion
- enthusiastic, fun and focused teachers
- accountability
- devoted teachers, passionate
- teachers that know their subjects, keep current, do their research
- teachers that want you to succeed and learn
- teachers that care and will listen; and answer your questions
- teachers that know what they are doing, and know the subject matter
- every student has the right to learn in own time
- teachers in control of their class
- get more involved – less worksheets, more demos
- fairness and understanding from teachers
- yearly evaluation of teachers skills and performance (including substitutes)
- less biased marking – thinking kids are all the same

Longer lunch time – feels very pressed; more time to connect with people; time to eat

Longer period for physical education – much too short to get anything out of it

Half PD days are not a good practice – no work gets done; would rather have whole day PD, then whole day of school; on half days you don't learn anything and everybody skips

More field trips (students learn better if the lessons are interesting)

More chances to work on assignments in the computer lab

More time to work outdoors, and in the community and businesses

Hands on work; subjects applied and related to real life; useful education

Work experience to show us what its like after high school

Study in real life situations, out of the classroom

Leadership class is good as it puts your skills to work in class and shows how to use them outside of class

Learning life skills

Teach math in a way that is relevant (e.g. budgeting skills)

More variety in classes

School should be preparation for the work force, as well as higher education

Health: the school needs to understand and help balance out expectations of students so we can stay in good health and keep working hard.

Focus the curriculum (or the teaching of the curriculum) on the topics at hand, less wandering

Have more tutoring options available; communicate what is available to all students so they can take advantage of tutoring opportunities

More extracurricular sports and activities – both recreational and competitive

More special events and challenge days

Sex and life education – birth control, violence, drugs

Drug use needs to be dealt with; need more programs

Reading

Like the SMART board

Smaller classes for more individual attention

Focus on learning for the future, not of the past

School start later in morning and go later in afternoon – we are always so tired

More programs – broad range of courses, variety for all students

More allowance for student choices in classes

More opportunities for learning languages (e.g. Spanish)

More options towards trades, computer programming, shop, etc.

More art, music and drama programs available – has become very sports oriented

Money for the arts, not just athletics – school only cares about athletics

Funding for band – should not have to fundraise for general maintenance

Options that carry on through the entire school year

Shorter classes and more choice

More choice within classes on picking topics for projects and essays

Democratic classrooms

More options in evaluation – not just standard testing

More time for testing – not rushed

Keep specific option courses: computer technology, foods, shop, mechanics, lifeskills, psychology, CALM class

Outdoor education

Healthier foods in the cafeteria – not as fatty

A survival class, avalanche awareness

Math is important – best learned by teaching concept, review and evaluation ... not constantly repetitive (and boring) worksheets

Build skills for time management

Learn to take care of living things

Start teaching Biology in Grade 9

Rewards for doing sports

Extended summer: for more work experience opportunity

All year school

More resources into new books

Being able to eat in all classes (need to keep up energy)

Social curriculum to include current events, out of class learning

Combination of structure and freedom: structure that allows choice and options for lengths/numbers of classes in a day

Fix the heating

Diversified learning for kinesthetic, audio and visual learners; use a variety of teaching techniques