

Tour campuses with GEAR UP

One of the many opportunities you'll have through GEAR UP Kentucky is to go on a campus tour. That means, you'll get to set foot on campus soil, visit classrooms, visit residence halls, talk with students, sample campus food and more! Why not be prepared for your campus tour when it rolls around?

Here are some questions you can think about, research on www.GoHigherKY.org or ask once you're on tour:

- What are classes like?
- How many students are in a class?
- What social activities will I find on campus?
- What types of special events are scheduled on campus?



Photo provided by Berea College.



- What athletic teams/events are there on campus?
- What is a residence hall room like?
- What are the advantages to living on campus?

Source: E-mentoring curriculum, Eastern Kentucky University

GEAR UP Ambassadors Lead the Way

The GEAR UP Ambassador Club is for middle school students in Jefferson County and is designed to help students increase awareness about college readiness, gain extracurricular experience, and gain leadership skills through student empowerment. The Ambassadors meet biweekly during the school day. Ambassadors participate in a variety of education and career activities that include leadership training, team building, communications and character development.

Iroquois, Lassiter and Thomas Jefferson Middle Schools all have

GEAR UP Ambassador Clubs. Each club is divided into five committees: newsletter, community service, research, public relations and planning. At each meeting, the committees work on separate projects such as writing articles, planning community service activities, researching different colleges and careers, getting the word out to classmates about GEAR UP Kentucky and helping GEAR UP staff plan activities for their schools. The Lassiter Pepsi House (see story below) is just one example of the Ambassadors' success! Other examples of the Ambassadors' work will be in upcoming issues of the GEAR UP Gazette. Stay tuned!

Pepsi House Blowout!

BY BRITTANY SATTERLEY
Eighth-grader, Lassiter Middle School

Pepsi House is an exciting activity in which students read pieces from their portfolio! Pepsi House is modeled after coffee houses; the audience snaps fingers instead of clapping.

Parents are invited to listen and enjoy all the students reading original poems and other pieces. There is also an exciting presentation by a speaker about the importance of writing.

Pepsi House is an opportunity to showcase student talent. It is a program that encourages sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students to write. Teachers encourage students to write notes, letter and e-mails. The more you write, the better you'll get! Maybe you'll be in the Pepsi House next.

Last year, Mrs. Scanlon* received a grant from GEAR UP Kentucky. This grant made it possible for Pepsi House and after-school activities such as the writing workshop.

The author of this story, Brittany Satterley, is a GEAR UP Ambassador at her school. Are you a GEAR UP Ambassador? Do you have a story you'd like to have printed in the next issue of the GEAR UP Gazette? Talk with a teacher or your GEAR UP Site Coordinator about making that happen.

*Mrs. Dawn Scanlon teaches at Lassiter Middle School and serves as the faculty sponsor for the GEAR UP Ambassadors.

WKU hosts cultural visit

BY ANGIE MCKINNEY
GEAR UP Site Coordinator



Photo provided by Western Kentucky University

On November 29, Butler County Middle School's eighth grade spent the day at Western Kentucky University. The morning began with the students attending the ballet *Winterdance* at the Fine Arts Center. After a question and answer session with the performers, everyone headed down the hill to the Downing University Center for lunch at Fresh Foods.

After lunch the students were met by WKU Spirit Masters. The class was divided into groups and given a tour of the campus. Students were able to visit several points of interest on campus, including the inside of a dorm room. The tours ended at Downing University Center, with the students going to the fourth-floor recreation room for pool and air hockey.

We've Got Mail

Dear GEAR UP Counselor,

Thank you for the trips to the local colleges. It helped me decide which college I would like to go to. I do know now I will be going to college. I'm hoping to go to one close to home so I can stay close to my mom. Thanks so much for helping me see it might be possible.

Eighth-grade student,
Foley Middle School
Berea College GEAR UP