

Charter School

Students:

Go Vipers!

Teacher:

Fantastic! Show me SLANT [Sit up, Listen, Ask & answer, No talking, Track speaker] right now.

James Willcox:

Today, Aspire operates thirty public charter schools across California. Um, I think it's picked up a lot of steam, particularly in California where we're one of the states where the charter movement and the number of charter schools [are] growing at a, uh, pretty significant rate. I mean, I think what makes the Aspire programs different is that it is all geared towards a culture of going to college. And we talk about going to college and the things that our students need to succeed in college and-and get a college degree, uh, from the earliest-the earliest grades.

Mekyle Feleke:

I want to go to college and- because I want to get educated and get a good job.

Students:

[Cheer] Go Vipers!

Emily Murphy:

Every Friday, students meet for Town Hall at 10:30 every Friday, and each class does their college chant, and then we recognize students who have been successful that week.

Emily Murphy and students:

Move to the groove of the college beat!

Emily Murphy:

So our mission is that all our students will graduate from college, and the idea is to build excitement around it from a young age, starting at kindergarten. So every class is named after a college, and they do their cheer with each other on Friday to generate that excitement and enthusiasm, um, around a college-ready culture.

Students:

Who's gonna go to college? We're gonna go to college!

Emily Murphy:

For most students here, they'll be the first in their family to go to college, um, which we're-we're really proud of that.

Natassijia Jordan:

"College for Certain" for us is a big thing. We started out day one knowing we're going to college, you have to go to college. We would stand in lines. And that was our morning callout. "College for Certain": that's how you get to go to class while everyone was in a line. So it was something that's been instilled into us from day one. Around our school building, we have college signs up everywhere. They want us to go. We're working on a daily basis to make sure we get there; and we don't have a problem reaching these high standards, because we know that it's just a normal standard that's expected of us here.

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