Plant the Seed Program
Fentress County Schools and York Institute

<u>**Change in Philosophy**</u>

Staff members are aware and constantly reminded that all students are fully capable of post-secondary education. Our job is to help them find their strengths and look at their options. This will include 4-year universities, 2-year technical schools, vocational programs and military training.

Our goal is to "<u>plant the seed</u>" that all Fentress County students can succeed and give them every opportunity to pursue their education goals. We want all Fentress County youth to develop the mindset to continue their education beyond high school.

<u>**ACT Tests**</u>

- As part of the State of Tennessee Diploma Project: <u>All</u> students will take the ACT tests. Students <u>will</u> work on ACT prep classes and teachers will receive training on how to help the students succeed with the tests.

- All 8th grade students will take the Explore test. Teachers will receive training on how to help the students succeed with the test.

- All 10th grade students will take the Plan test. Teachers will receive training on how to help the students succeed with the test.

The better the ACT score, the better a student's chances are of succeeding in college and the more scholarship money they can receive.

<u>**Identifying At-Risk Students**</u>

Students are closely monitored for grades, attendance and any problems that may keep them from succeeding in school.

- Students will be provided counseling and tutoring to help them.

- Parents and/or guardians will be contacted when students are in danger of failing. Schools and parents will work together to ensure the success of the child.

- Students will be helped to graduate from high school by credit recovery, adult high school and by the use of faculty advisors and graduation coaches. <u>Dropping out of school is not an option.</u>

Planting the Seed Night

Parents of Pre-K students are invited to a presentation that covers:

- the preparation and rigors of public schools.
- the advantages of their children graduating and going on to post-secondary education.
- the cost of college and how to save for college.

Dual Enrollment

Students at Clarkrange High School and York Institute will be encouraged to take dual enrollment classes. Both schools will work on offering more courses to benefit students.

College, Vocational and Technical School Tours

Beginning in junior high through high school, students will be taken to local colleges, vocational schools and technical schools so that they can actually be on these campuses and witness the atmosphere. Fentress County Schools and York Institute will jointly hold a college, vocational and job fair every year for all 8th grade students to expose them to different post-secondary opportunities for them.

Annual College and Vocational School Day

York Institute and Clarkrange High School alumni who are enrolled in post-secondary education are invited to return to high schools and junior highs to meet with current students. These recent high school alumni will discuss all aspects of their education and encourage our students to attend and succeed in college or vocational schools. These students will meet with local students in small groups to provide students an opportunity to ask questions. This will probably occur in December.

Clarkrange High School and York Institute Alumni

Clarkrange High School and York Institute alumni who are enrolled in post-secondary schools will be pictured on a *"Where are you going?"* bulletin board in the school. This will remind students that many Clarkrange High School and York Institute alumni go on to school; and again that we as a school, value higher education.

8th Grade Pennant Project

All 8th grade guidance classes will research a college or vocational school. The students will research the schools by using the Internet and will write a letter to these schools requesting information. The students will prepare a presentation and make a pennant of the school to display in the hallway of their school.

Parent Involvement

Parents, community, as well as school personnel must be heavily involved in encouraging our students to succeed and pursue higher education. Both Clarkrange High School and York Institute will host a dinner and/or a meeting for all parents and students of 9th graders to acclimate them to the requirements of high school and to continue to *"plant the seed"* of post-secondary education. Parents will be encouraged to take part and be active in their child's education.

Parent/teacher conferences will continue. Guidance counselors will be available to help teachers answer any questions about post-secondary education that parents may have.

Academic achievement of students will be recognized in local media, at academic banquets, at school assemblies, or at athletic events. Academic achievement will be recognized by all means possible.

A meeting will be held at night at York Institute and Clarkrange High School to help parents fill out FAFSA forms and to also help students applying for scholarships. Principals will monitor this to make sure students participate. A quality faculty advisement program will be used to advise students on academics. The meeting will be held regularly.

Clarkrange High School and York Institute will hold a meeting for parents and students of juniors in order to prepare the student and family of the rigor and requirements of their senior year. It will also include a discussion of applying for post-secondary education opportunities.

Communication

Senior classes at York Institute and Clarkrange High School will receive help to construct a graduation facebook page. This will enable graduates to keep up with each other and enable the high school to keep track of former students. This will allow high school students that have graduated to have a link of communication to their local advisors of their high school.

Posters, signs and billboards will be placed throughout our schools and community to promote "Planting the Seed." Various clubs and school groups will be asked to help promote the programs. Posters will be purchased as funds become available.