

Summer Expo 2008

*Naperville Central High School
Naperville, Illinois*

A summer job fair had students from Naperville Central High School looking forward to June, July, and August—and not because they would be on vacation. The Summer Expo 2008 helped students and parents explore the work and volunteer opportunities available for the summer ahead.

The pilot job fair featured businesses, non-profits, and organizations that needed summer employees and volunteers.

The School Family Community Partnership (SFCP) team sponsored the job fair to help improve the social and emotional environment at the school. Team members wanted to give students positive activities that they could participate in during the summer. Such experiences help raise students' self esteem and improve behavior at school.

Team members recruited businesses and other organizations to attend the spring event. They solicited participants through phone calls and by e-mail.

Staff advertised the Expo to parents and students in fliers, e-mails, and phone calls. They also published announcements in the school's newsletter and reminded students during regular assemblies.

About 75 parents and 75 students attended the Expo, which began with a large group introductory meeting. After that, students and parents explored employers' booths and talked one-on-one with the representatives about paid and volunteer opportunities. For instance, several summer camps wanted to employ the students as camp counselors. The school's guidance counselors and coaches also presented information on academic and athletic possibilities over the summer.

SFCP members and school officials were pleased to see so many students taking an interest in summer experiences that could help identify potential career paths. Parents and

students were happy to have the opportunity to explore so many options.

The only expenses were printing, thank you notes, and balloons. The minimal costs were paid with funds from the school's regular budget.

Based on the success of this pilot Expo, Naperville Central will schedule another summer job fair next spring. Organizers will start planning earlier and try to get even more support from the business community.

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