

# EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT EDMONDSON–WESTSIDE BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK

Edmondson–Westside High School  
Baltimore, Maryland

At an evening Action Team meeting at Edmondson-Westside High School, Team members realized that many parents were not aware of all that the school had to offer. Many parents did not know about the various clubs and vocational trades at the school and were extremely interested in finding out more about them. It was decided that an evening activity should be planned where every vocational trade and club could set up a booth and highlight their work. Excitement quickly grew for this Type 2 activity and plans began by selecting a date and forming a committee. It was decided that all of the middle schools in our area would also be invited to encourage students to attend our city-wide vo-tech school. Fliers were designed and printed by students in our printing trade and sent to all families and middle schools. The event was described at a staff meeting and all trades, clubs, and teachers of academic subjects were encouraged to attend and set up a booth which would showcase what they do.

The activity committee decided that the cheerleaders and the Edmondson-Westside band would open the event. This was a wonderful idea, as it set the tone for the entire evening. The Action Team also planned to have door prizes with the school's name and logo every half-hour. This was another very popular activity. Approximately twenty-five tables were set up. Most of the school clubs were represented, as well as many of the trades and academic subjects. Participants were able to go from table to table gathering information, and talking to the leaders or teachers of the various activities. The cosmetology trade provided guests with free manicures. The nursing trade also had a table set up where they were able to do some simple health screenings. We had a little over 100 guests participate in this event.

This was a very well received activity, although we did not have the number of guests that we had anticipated. The school is planning to repeat this activity in the spring and hopes that more people will attend. Those in attendance reported to the Action Team how much they enjoyed having the opportunity to learn more about the school and what it had to offer. The Action Team Chair from Edmondson-Westside shared this activity at a Cluster Meeting, and another high school in Baltimore is planning to replicate the activity this spring. A third school is going to plan a similar activity in the fall.

The Action Team Chair has reported that a more concerted effort will be made this spring to insure that all trades, clubs, and academic subjects are represented with a display or table. Also, a more focused effort will be made to motivate students to attend with their parents. Plans are underway to include an article in the newsletter that the Action Team publishes.

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