

High School Internship Program

Platte Canyon School District
Bailey, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

High school students often face tough decisions when considering their futures, including whether or not to attend college, what career path to pursue, and which skills to develop. Platte Canyon School District’s High School Internship Program is intended to help students in making these decisions by offering job shadowing and internships with professionals in the community. The program is also intended to enhance skills and knowledge of all parties involved to foster effective partnerships that support student achievement and improvement of the school district.

Currently, 22 students are a part of this program. Job shadowing and internships are scheduled for days that the students are not in school, in order to increase learning outside of the typical school year. Examples of internships include placement with a former councilwoman who now works in education leadership and politics, and placement with a veterinarian.

This program is important because it builds human, social, and intellectual capital of the participating students. The internships include a focus on increasing the ability of community partners and families to build partnerships and connections. Students increase their self-awareness while engaging in a different type of learning. The internships are linked to the Colorado Academic Standards in Science, Language Arts, Math, and Social Studies.

For those considering this program, Platte Canyon District suggests that the person coordinating the internship program work closely with the high school counselor. In order to attract mentors with whom to place students, it is suggested that a letter be written to the professional with a follow-up phone call. Platte Canyon was very encouraged by the fact that almost all the professionals contacted were eager to work with students, which is important when considering building relationships between schools, families, and the community.