

Helping our Children see their future

Every parent goes through the agony of watching their teenager aimlessly waste time. They will not work, study, or read. Too much time is wasted, valuable time, time that can never be replaced.

Middle school teachers agonize daily over the same issue. That type agony led to the School Archive Project. It is an attempt to help students discover direction; discover a vision of their own futures.

The School Archive Project is centered on a 10-year time-capsule and class reunion project. The time capsule is a large 350-pound vault bolted to the floor in the school lobby. It holds letters all 8th graders are able to write to themselves before they leave for high school. This letter documents their life history to date, current events in their life, and their plans for the future. They seal it into a self-addressed envelope with an address at which they should still be able to receive mail in 10 years, maybe the address of a parent, grandparent, aunt or uncle.

At the end of 8th grade a day is dedicated as Archiving Day. That is the day all 8th graders pose with their Language Arts Class and teacher for a photo in front of the School Archive.



After the photo they line up and one by one place their letter onto the shelf inside the vault for their class. They know they will not receive it back for 10 years.

The next day they each receive a copy of that photo with information on the back about the date and plans for their 10 year reunion. They are reminded that they will be invited to speak with the then current 8th grade students. They will give their recommendations for success.

They are warned to expect questions such as “Would you do anything differently if you were 13 again?”



Parents can speak with their children in many ways about the Archive Project when they need motivation. What will they be saying to the decade younger 8th graders at their 10-year class reunion?

Your questions about the Archive Project are welcome!

Bill Betzen, Computer Applications Teacher, Room 200
School Archive Project Manager, www.studentmotivation.org
Quintanilla Middle School, Dallas, Texas 75211
972-502-3200 x8200