***High School Survival Guide***

You have been asked by the guidance department to create a “survival guide” to Windsor Locks High School. As you can imagine, moving to a new school can be a very difficult transition for a teenager. They are given the daunting task of trying to decode the complexities of a new H.S. culture. In order to help students make a smooth transition you will be identifying and explaining the elements of Windsor Locks High School. You will also research common issues experienced by new students and provide suggestions to solve those problems. This will be the basis of your guide which will include the following:

A.

* 5 symbols
* 3 Norms
* 3 values
* 3 examples of Language

B.

* 4 common issues faced by new students
* Suggestions/solutions for these issues
  + ie. Faculty or students they should seek out

Your guides are not limited to these elements of culture, use your texts or any other resources to find other aspects of a High School Culture.

Class procedure:

1. Introduction using ‘Mean Girls’
2. Individually students complete the first column of the organizer
3. Discuss your responses in groups
4. Provide examples to the whole class
5. Utilize Media center resources to identify common issues experienced by new students.
   1. Collaborate with group members to determine solutions or suggestions to the issues.
6. Complete Exit Ticket

The product from today’s class will serve as the basis of your guides. You will be given 2 more class periods to collaborate with your groups. It is expected that you conduct work on this project outside of class.

Your guides are not limited to these elements of culture, use your texts or any other resources to find other aspects of a High School Culture.

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| Element of Culture at WLHS | Examples at WLHS | Examples from Mean Girls Clip |
| Symbols  An object, gesture, sound, image or design that represents something other than itself |  |  |
| Norms  Specific guidelines for action that say how people should behave in particular situations |  |  |
| Values  General ideas that people share about what is good or bad, desirable or undesirable. |  |  |
| Language  A system of verbal symbols with rules about how those symbols can be strung together to convey more complex meaning. |  |  |

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| Common issues faced by a New Student | Possible solution or suggestion at WLHS |
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Exit Slip

High School Survival Guide Day 1

1. What are 3 symbols new students might adjust to quickly?
2. If you were a new student what 2 aspects of a new school would be most intimidating to you?
3. Explain 1 way you could assist a new student in their transition to WLHS.