**Talon Program – John Castrese**

**Presentation Notes**

Discuss about the Talon Program we use at MSSD

MSSD Community Building: The purpose why we are doing to empower students

Provide structure for our students

First, MSSD environment: see our campus what it looks like: unique, diverse students, 24/7 program, ongoing programs and challenging

MSSD Jargon: before I discuss more on Talon program (see slide)

Off campus for students: Where can students go? Students can go on a Gallaudet shuttle bus to NOMA or Union Station for metro. It is for a group of 3. They will have to do a travel training first and have parents’ permission if their child(ren) can go off campus

MSSD curfew: on Weekends students must return to dorms by 9pm

We have 60-80 girls and boys per dorms. This Talon Program is to clear set of expectations for our students. This is also for rewards and privileges. It also keeps students safe.

7 expectations for students:

1. morning curfew 2. Room inspection 3. Sign in and out 4. ID and key 5. Study hour on time 6. In your wing at 10:30pm 7. In bed, lights out at 11pm

these expectations will help students to be more responsible.

Sign in/out helps staff to know students’ whereabouts. Staff needs to know where students are from 314pm to dorm curfew (930pm) daily

These expectations are objective, not subjective.

Students will start with gold status. They can maintain on gold status. If student does not follow 7 expectations daily, there are two statuses: Silver and bronze. If student does not follow these expectations, they get points for not following the expectations: Silver (4 to 6 points), Bronze (6 points or more)

Expectations are also applied to weekends too.

Bronze status: if student on bronze status, student did not break any expectations and does not get point, and stay zero. Student can return to gold status immediately. If student gets more than 4 & plus point, it will be their second week as bronze status. Staff can follow up with these students to see why they did not follow the 7 expectations.

Privileges for gold, silver and bronze statuses:

Gold: group of 3, gym, eagle zone, off campus/weekend activities from Thursday thru Sunday

Silver: group of 3 for off campus on Sundays only, weekend activities, gym and eagle zone

Bronze: weekend activities on Sundays only, personal shopping on Sundays only, gym and eagle zone only Friday thru Saturday

Use and remain positives to say to our students:

Use word expectations, not rules

Avoid words strike

Incentives:

What we can offer programs for our students

Gold rewards:

4 times in row for a month gets $5 eagle zone voucher

Student on a gold status receive a ticket per week for raffle

4 male students and 4 female students will get a chance to wheel for prize

Documentation

It is being kept in google drive. Staff has access to it in google drive via their smartphones.

Students will know how many points they have and the reasons why. They will be notified in person or via email for the points they have received.

Google drive documentation: it must include legend of 7 expectations, date(s), and staff initals. It also shows students’ color status on gold, silver or bronze. This will help keep track of students’ statues and know what they priveleges are.

Strategies/Guidelines

Use positive words, don’t tell students to be on time. Give the point immediately following the unacceptable behavior. Be clear. Point out the expectation not being followed. Staff has to be consistent. It helps maintain a positive relationship between staff and students.

Previous talon points program was based on weekly status, weekend privileges, hard to tack with points being given, not apply to commuter and local students. Residential students are more suffer from that previous talon point program. Expectations were subjective.

Current talon points program is based on daily and immediate status, apply to commuter, local, and residential students, weekdays and weekend privileges based, expectations are objective and clear. Less incident reports. Large increase in motivation and accountability. More focus on building relationship.

This talon points program is about empowerment, caring, respect, fairness, and responsibility for students.