



52 NIGHT HERON - CHAPEL HILL, NC 27517 - P: 800-874-1100 - E: PHIL@LEARNINGFORLIVING.COM

## **Sounding Off On School Culture |**

*Five takeaways from this week's School Culture By Design Podcast*

*"Fresh ideas for engaging every student"*

**Guest: Greg Hroch, 5 Star Students**

- 1) **Try to find any non-engaged students, and help them find something that will connect them to the school.** We don't know what 17-year-olds want to do without asking them. Find out their interests. It helps get your school's programs to grow. If you go around and ask and there are 20 students who love bowling, it's a missed opportunity to get some students involved by not having a bowling club. And when those students become engaged, praise them for it!
- 2) **Redefining "Friday Night Lights."** Growing up, everyone went to all the Friday night football games. That's not the case anymore. But it's such an easy event to bring the community together and boost school spirit. So when I speak at schools, I tell them to stop selling Friday Night Football as just a football game. It's not about the score of the game – it's the experience. It's hanging with your friends, watching the band, cheering for your team. And it brings your entire school community together.
- 3) **Data proves that engaged students are more successful than non-engaged ones.** Our company has done research on this and found students that are engaged have a full grade-point higher, attend 3.1 more school days and have half as many discipline issues than non-engaged ones.
- 4) **Students are drawn to the "new."** Make room for other sports or activities! Even if it's just using the 20 minute halftime at a game. Start something like quidditch (from Harry Potter.) Almost all universities today have recreation quidditch teams! Students are starting to get into that. It's a fun little sport. You can easily have a demonstration for that during another game or during lunch.
- 5) **Don't underestimate the impact of grandparents!** I've had some schools start a grandparents day! It just expands the reach of your community and people who can help at the school. You might take grandma to school one day and then all of a sudden, next week she might be at the football game wearing your team colors!

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