



Backpack of Success Skills: Ready for Middle School Greathouse Shryock Traditional Elementary School

Video Reflection Guide

This video shares how Greathouse Shryock Traditional Elementary school students create and present a ‘virtual backpack’ of artifacts that help them show that they have skills they will need for middle school. For educators interested in applying lessons learned from the video to their district or school context, this accompanying reflection guide offers questions to consider after watching the video, as well as some additional resources.

Defining Success Skills

“If another school wanted to replicate this, I think that it's important to define what those success skills are for your school or your district. And then making a plan to implement. We did it gradually. It took several years to get to where it is now. But making that part of your everyday instruction.” - Angela Burns, Assistant Principal

- What do you think are the success skills that matter most to your school or district community?
- How might you engage students, educators, and other stakeholders in defining success skills?

Making Applications to Student Life

“If you're collecting work and putting it in some kind of portfolio, you really have already got the collection of work. We're just categorizing it into these success skills and showing the students how they go across the board in your everyday life and your school life. And I just think it's a great way for them to look back at all the hard work that they have done throughout the years.” - Julie Simms, Technology Teacher

- What are some ways that your school or district helps students see how the social, emotional, and academic skills they are building apply to various elements of their lives?
- Are there opportunities in your school or district to help students track and celebrate the progress they've made over time?

Additional Resources

[Greathouse Shryock Traditional Elementary School](#): Read Greathouse Shryock’s National Blue Ribbon Schools program application to learn more about how they approach instruction and support for students in all areas.

National Blue Ribbon Schools: [Student Engagement and Motivation Practices](#) - Learn more about effective practices related to student engagement and motivation from other National Blue Ribbon schools.