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Fall 2016



JMG's Leadership Education Conference Experience

The senior and junior JMG classes have been working on the term "GRIT" when it comes to school, as well as life. GRIT is persevering through any hardships that come, while working and pushing through them to reach a goal. It's being driven to succeed, no matter if a person is "book or street smart." On a Thursday and Friday in October, three seniors and three juniors went to a JMG Leadership Education Conference that was held at Pine Tree Camp in Rome, Maine. After debriefing with all of the students who attend, it was unanimously decided that this was an amazing experience for all and I'll share with you why.

While at the conference students were asked to do tasks that would build on their leadership skills, teamwork skills, confidence and other skills related to being successful in the future. Students were required to go out of their comfort zones and do things they usually would not do. Activities like minute-to-win-it games, where each student had to participate, made it so a student could work on his or her drive because these activities made one strive to win while overcoming a challenge. Students also participated in group activities with people from other schools, where students had to determine a leader with others willing to follow to accomplish a task. Sometimes working with other people who don't view things in the same manner as yourself, causes one to work on their patience and definitely some negotiating skills. Our JMG students had a poster that we had to present in front of 6 JMG Alumni and students from different schools in a competition setting that would determine a winner. Everybody spoke loudly and with confidence, despite the majority of us feeling rather uncomfortable speaking in front of others. After our presentation was complete, we all felt very relieved yet proud that we ALL did a great job and this activity brought us together since we prepared in advance a vast amount.

The students who attended received many valuable lessons from this conference. One would be that things in life aren't easy and it takes a lot of hard work to achieve the goals. GRIT is not about who is good at everything, it is about your drive to achieve greatness. Lastly, the perseverance to get through the bumps in the road of life can be accomplished through GRIT by sticking with it and not giving up.

~Mary Garbacki; JMG Senior Student

JMG partners with public education and private businesses to offer results-driven solutions to ensure all Maine students graduate, attain post-secondary credentials and pursue meaningful careers.



Maine Youth Leadership Day

Erskine Academy's Junior JMG class had a chance to participate in the Maine Youth Leadership Day at Hyde High School in Bath. We met with multiple different students from a plethora of other schools and grades inside Hyde's gym. Each class sat together in the rows of chairs and once everyone was seated, the keynote speaker United States' Senator Angus King began giving his speech. He focused on a man from Maine named Joshua Chamberlain who was a college professor in Maine during the time before the Civil War. After the Civil War started Chamberlain felt compelled to fight for his country and through hard work he lead a group of soldiers into Gettysburg. Even though the odds were all against his group, they were the last line of defense and managed to chase the Confederate forces off. The lesson Angus King was trying to delivery was that in order to lead you have to persevere, always show character, and be ambitious. Once Angus King was finished every person - staff and student - was given a name tag, this tag had a certain characteristic written on the top. These characteristics all related to certain leadership aspects. Each person would then meet with others who had the same characteristic and head off to their three workshops. Some of these workshops involved acknowledging certain strengths and weaknesses that you have, while seeing if other students had similar aspects. Other workshops involved sitting and listening various guest speakers, all of which are leaders in their own right. These speakers would use their stories and experiences to help inspire the students present. It was agreed by our entire JMG class that these workshops were highly beneficial to attend and we'd recommend these speakers to other students. Once lunch was over everyone returned to the gym to hear some students talk about barriers that have affected their life and how they are working on moving past these barriers.



It was overall an inspiring experience, that incorporated lessons and morals for every students to walk away with. Hearing the personal stories of how established leaders have overcome challenges and continue to preserve was motivating for our class. Having an opportunity to attend such an event as the Maine Youth Leadership Day as part of JMG is something that we were grateful for as an entire class.

Nick Levesque
JMG Junior Student

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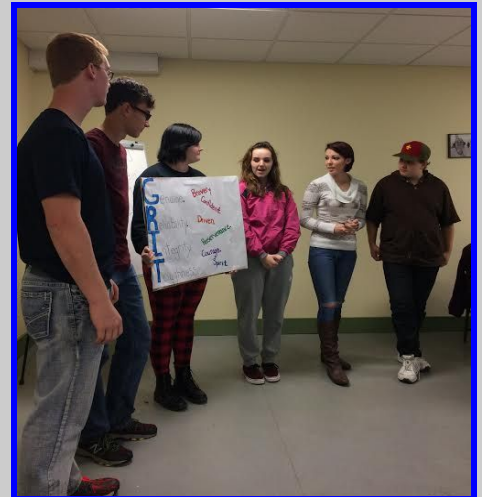
UPCOMING JMG EVENTS:

- Veteran's Luncheon at the China Legion Hall
 - Attending a College/Career Fair
- ABC Crafts Championship at the Augusta Civic Center
 - Guest Speakers:
 - *Universal Technical Institute Admissions Representative
 - *New England Institute of Technology Admissions Representative

JMG's Career Association members actively working together!



Matt Atchison builds a shoe tower during a classroom activity.



JMG's Career Association presents at the Leadership Education Conference

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