

Announcer (00:03):

Welcome to the Wildkit Way, a podcast that gives the mic to Dr. Marcus Campbell, the superintendent of Evanston Township High School. Join us on this audio journey as Dr. Campbell shares his stories and insights and has honest real conversations with people who make ETHS and our community the incredible place it is.

Announcer (00:31):

The high school experience. How would you describe yours? What connects students to their school community? On this episode of the Wildkit Way, ETHS Superintendent Marcus Campbell sits down with students to give us all a better understanding of the Wildkit Experience. Let's get started.

Dr. Marcus Campbell (00:55):

Hello eTown. This is Superintendent Marcus Campbell. Today I want to put the focus on our future. The students. Let's just say that the past few years have not been easy. They've been tough, and yet out of this, you have found yourselves resilient and ready to face the future because of your experiences here at ETHS. So I want to shine a light on the Wildkit experience. Joining me today are two Wildkits, Nicole Yao and Kaleb Hadaway, two juniors who can describe what it means to live and breathe as an ETHS Wildkit. So hello, Nicole. Hello, Caleb. How has the school year started for the both of you and how would you be describing your Wildkit experience so far?

Nicole Yao (01:44):

Well, I think my Wildkit experience has been pretty good. This year has been a little bit stressful just because it's junior year. It's a big deal apparently, but I've started to manage that stress and get a hang of how school is working, so that's good.

Dr. Marcus Campbell (02:04):

Alright, Kaleb?

Kaleb Hadaway (02:04):

Yeah, I would definitely agree with that. Last year and the year before that were pretty chill, but this year there's definitely been struggles, but time management is definitely a good way to go. And just the Wildkit experience in general is pretty interesting because there's two factors of it, for me. One is just a normal student, but then the other is as a black student. The normal student is just paying attention to grades and all that stuff. But then the black student, you also have to worry about seeing other people who look like you in a given space. And it is cool to

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Nicole Yao (05:01):

Well, if I'm being honest here, I know that a lot of students are stressed about academics and college app season just or early admission, early application. That just passed. So I know that a lot of the seniors are feeling a little more relieved about that process, but that's pretty much what I've observed.

Kaleb Hadaway (05:27):

Grades, for me. Coming from a Caribbean household, that's definitely a big thing that they pay attention to. And it is a stressor for sure, but finding little ways to have you de-stress and all that stuff is nice.

Announcer (05:47):

This school year, ETHS has made adjustments to support the wellbeing of students. Wildkits have opportunities to get the care they need, including the use of mental health dates. Comprehensive programs are also offered by Student Services and Academic Supports departments.

Dr. Marcus Campbell (06:06):

So with that said, too, we've made a lot of changes to the school this year, coming off the pandemic, kind of getting back to the things that we have normally done outside of the pandemic or prior to the pandemic. What do you all make of the changes...some of the changes that we've made to the school? As we try to readjust for learning and safety and so many other things --and actually mental health-- all of those adjustments we're making, what are your thoughts about some of the changes that we've made in the school so far?

Kaleb Hadaway (06:44):

The five mental health days that we have at the school is in line with the national average.

Dr. Marcus Campbell (10:18):

That's good. One other, since you all are given advice of <laugh>, I have another question. What advice would you give to adults, parents, guardians, teachers, administrators, somebody like me, as you adjust in your navigating high school these days, what advice would you give to the adults in your life?

Kaleb Hadaway (10:44):

For me, building a relationship with my parents about grades and stuff. At first it was rough when they would get on me for having something in lit or it just didn't me, it didn't motivate me to put it in on time and all that stuff. But when we got together and we worked it out and we saw that there are going to be times where I'm struggling and you just have to be there to support me and not to weigh me down, that is definitely important. And then with teachers, again, going back to building the connection and I would say not work harder, but definitely put that foot out to reach to the students for sure. Because there are the quiet ones, which I definitely am at times, or sometimes the people who need it the most or they need the connection the most.

Dr. Marcus Campbell (11:34):

I get that. I was a quiet student too and having students, teachers or staff to reach out to me was really important. What about you, Nicole?

Nicole Yao (11:42):

Well, I'm not quiet for one <laugh>, but that might change my experience a little bit. But I'd say to the teachers and the administration, and the staff here just I guess just keep reaching out because even though someone or some student may seem like everything is okay or might put on a face in the school building or something. There's always something behind everyone's little act. Everyone's personality at school and their persona at school is always different than how they are at home. But for the parents, I'd say just continue to support your student the best way you can. And most importantly, e t whi³/₄g is ok w s i³/₄t l³/₄meed osona gyou footst

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Nicole Yao (15:57):

Oh, this is true. Yes.

Dr. Marcus Campbell (15:59):

We have a lot here at ETHS for students to ge^t