

## **About Link Crew at Santa Cruz High School**

### **What is Link Crew?**

(Boomerang Project, 2011 <http://boomerangproject.com>)

Link Crew is a high school transition program that welcomes freshmen and makes them feel comfortable throughout the first year of their high school experience. Built on the belief that students can help students succeed, Link Crew trains members of the junior and senior classes to be Link Leaders. As positive role models, Link Leaders are motivators, leaders and teachers who guide the freshmen to discover what it takes to be successful during the transition to high school and help facilitate freshman success.

More and more studies show that if students have a positive experience their first year in high school, their chance for success increases dramatically. The Link Crew high school transition program provides the structure for freshmen to receive support and guidance from juniors and seniors who have been through the challenges that high school poses, and understand that the transition to a larger school can sometimes be overwhelming.

Link Crew begins with a powerful orientation day that makes freshmen excited and proud to be attending their new high school and allows them to begin developing relationships and strategies that will contribute to their high school success.

After orientation, Link Crew continues, providing a variety of both Academic and Social Follow Up Activities throughout the year. Academic Follow Ups are lessons presented by trained Link Leaders during visits to freshman classes; Social Follow Ups are events organized by your Coordinator team in which the freshmen and Leaders attend fun school sponsored social events together.

Link Crew's goal is to provide schools with a structure in which students make real connections with each other. Through this program, students learn that people at school care about them and their success. Link Crew is the high school transition program that will increase attendance, decrease discipline referrals and improve academic performance at your school.

### **The following members of the Santa Cruz High School community are Link Crew certified:**

Christy Latham, staff

Veronica Zaleha, staff

Karen Edmonds, principal

Lori Butterworth, parent

Please see the Link Crew Logic Model for information about the specific outcomes Santa Cruz High School will be anticipating through the Link Crew program.