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Research exercise: Syntheses of Research on Factors Related to p - 12 Student Achievement

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THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY IN EDUCATION
Conor Squires, Hannah Schmidt, Tori Kistner & Brigid Kovach
Advisors: Dr. Kathryn Kinnucan-Welsch and Professor Susan Ferguson

Brigid Kovach: “WHAT ARE THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF PRESSURE ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE?”
-Students feel there is an immense pressure to perform academically. The stress of these pressures is leading to harm of students mentally, physically, and emotionally. Students are focusing on getting more done, more quickly, instead of acquiring skills and mastering concepts. Community can and needs to step up to make a change in the field of education.

Conor Squires: “IS A TEACHER MORE EFFECTIVE IF HE OR SHE IS INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY?”
-A teacher is more effective when they are involved in the community because they can relate more to students. This enables the teacher to positively impact the students’ lives, in and outside of the classroom. Teachers can get involved in the community by coaching sports, participating in community service, and involving students in activities.

Tori Kistner: “WHAT STEPS CAN BE TAKEN TO ELIMINATE THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP?”
-Community involvement in education can help lower the achievement gap. Since some parents in urban communities specifically feel they do not have the time or ability to adequately provide for their children, the community can be a positive influence by providing services and facilities that children can attend outside the of the normal school hours. Such services include after school tutoring and study sessions, activities such as sports, and summer programs.

Hannah Schmidt: “HOW CAN TEACHERS BE SUCCESSFUL IN HELPING STUDENTS WHO LIVE IN HIGH POVERTY ENVIRONMENTS?”
-Establishing intrinsic motivation in students is important for their success. Getting involved in the community is a way to keep students actively involved. Parents greatly influence the success of students. They must be actively involved in their children’s lives- helping them with homework is not enough. Parents can play a role in the community of the school by getting involved in Parent-Teacher Associations, volunteering for classroom activities, and encouraging their children to get involved in extracurricular activities.