Why Aren’t Kids Taking Physics?

Research and Survey Results
Why aren’t kids taking physics?

Student Response
- 45% believed they knew what physics would entail
- 60% said they had the math skills
- 65% thought a poor grade would hurt their college acceptance
- More than 2 of 5 thought physics was just for engineers

Guidance Counselor Response
- 65% believed students did not know what physics would entail
- 70% said their kids didn’t have the math skills
- 56% thought a poor grade would hurt kids college acceptance rates
- Over half thought physics was just for engineers

Survey results courtesy of Earl Barrett and Larry Dukerich
Respondents: ~ 900 chemistry students and 75 guidance counselors
Why aren’t kids taking physics?

“What type of contact do you have with your physics teacher(s)?”

- Nearly 60% of guidance counselors stated they had no significant contact with the physics teacher(s) on their campuses

Survey results courtesy of Earl Barrett and Larry Dukerich
Respondents: ~900 chemistry students
75 guidance counselors
Why aren’t your kids taking physics?

What barriers exist in your classroom, at your school, in your district and your community?
Singing Rods
How Do We Recruit?
Melissa’s Recruitment Techniques

- Engage your students in highly visible projects – invite other classes to participate or watch
- Use the students’ tools – social media – to advertise your class
- Be an active participant on your campus
- Get to know the CTE teachers – physics is highly applicable to their programs
- Get to know the coaches – physics is beneficial to athletes
- Communicate with guidance counselors – get them involved in your activities
- Meet with the other physics teachers in your district or area – collaborate and band together
- Educate curriculum department on the importance of physics
- Volunteer to help with curriculum and professional development
- Be a visible presence in the district
- Above all, be yourself
Zak’s Recruitment Techniques

- Always have physics toys…or petrified poop!
- Cafeteria…before school, during lunch, after school
- Subbing other classes
- Elective fair
- Walking around campus
- Do lab/activities where others can see
- In class presentations to all science classes (you or students)
- Get in good with media/yearbook/photo teacher
- Schedule meeting with all guidance councilors before or after school
- Invite in other teachers, councilors, admin to see cool stuff we do
- Do stupid things in pep assembles
- Sponsor a club/coach a sport
- Get in good with the district media person
- Be weird, be yourself
- Present at PD
- Live your philosophy
BREAK!!!!!!!