**Purpose Statement**: I plan on implementing a Peer Mentor Program as an intervention for Closing the Gap. Based on the results from the needs assessment that was administered to freshmen and senior students, the data that stood out to me the most included personal/social needs among students, primarily freshmen, in building friendships with students. With the indicated data results, I feel it would be beneficial to form a peer mentoring program at Steinmetz College Prep.

**Target Population:** The target population for this intervention would be freshmen and senior students. Before the start of the program, counselors will meet with senior student ambassadors to highlight and address the purpose of the program. Student ambassadors will be selected to participate in the Peer Mentor Program based on their willingness and dedication in demonstrating leadership skills, and providing role model qualities to freshmen students. This also includes ambassadors who can offer a positive experience to their mentee and commit to the program for the required duration. Freshmen will be chosen based on teacher/counselor referrals, indicating a need for personal/social support.

**Intervention Plan:** The Peer Mentor Program will run for six weeks, and will consist of twelve freshmen and six seniors (student ambassadors). Each ambassador will be paired with two freshmen. Prior to the start of the program, ambassadors and freshmen will be given a pre-test to assess their interests and level of comfort to participate in the program. Based on their results, students will be matched according to similarities of interest in activities, and topics of discussion. The purpose of matching students accordingly is to facilitate the process for freshmen in building a trusting relationship with their mentor. Students will also be receiving a consent form stating the purpose of the program, their anticipated role, and signatures from both parent/guardian and student. The Peer Mentor Program should serve to benefit students in allowing them to connect with their peers and the school as a whole.

Once freshmen and ambassadors have been selected, they will meet once a week (every Friday) for one period, and engage in various activities that involve bonding and team building. Such activities will include icebreakers used to strengthen cross-age relationships, creating life journals or scrapbooks that contain events, hobbies, people, and other fun events done with mentor/mentee in previous sessions, and any choices of activities suggested among mentors and mentees. Prior to each session, counselors will meet with student ambassadors once a week for a brief training of what is expected in the upcoming Peer Mentor Session. These trainings will provide an overview of their role as a mentor as well as opportunities to practice new skills they can bring to the mentoring relationship. Along with the practice of new skills, counselors will provide mentors with the handouts and supplies needed for Friday’s session so that mentors are prepared. To help ensure that mentoring groups are constructive, counselors will be available and present at each session to check in with mentors and mentees.

The process data will include a total of 18 students; 6 student ambassadors and 12 freshmen. Mentors and Mentees will be given a post-test on the last day to identify their progress in the program which will include knowledge, attitude, and skill questions. Based on their results, the perception data will be determined. The outcome data will aim to increase the number of peer-peer relationships and number of students feeling comfortable interacting with students of other grade levels.