Student Voice in Remote Learning

The season of Spring brought many twists and turns as students and staff figured out learning from afar and staying connected. As TOP transitioned to Google Classroom, we took some time to check in with students about what content they wanted and needed during this time of change.

Faced with many new and changing responsibilities, students were able to share about the skills from TOP they were using now that their classroom was their home. Students noticed how their routines play a role in their learning. They also determined which lessons would be most relevant and helpful during this time of uncertainty. Both 7th and 8th Grade voted for lessons on time management, and hope. Additional 7th grade lessons were inclusion and bullying and goal setting. Additional 8th Grade lessons were mental health and coping skills and “adulting” things: navigating transitions from adolescence to adulthood. As we finish out the school year remotely, students’ Social and Emotional Learning skills can continue to grow and be useful during this time of unknowns. Even though they are faced with a new normal, students were able to share things they are grateful for and find joy in some of their online work.

Students’ Top SEL Skills to Practice During Their Remote Learning Experience:

- Decision Making
- Emotion Management
- Empathy
- Responsibility
- Teamwork
The TOP Teen SPOTLIGHT!

Meet Ja’Miere! Ja’Miere is a rising 8th grader participating in TOP at Brittany Woods. During remote learning, Ja’Miere has been thriving by practicing time management – he has found a balance of getting all school work completed in the morning and then having the afternoon for personal time.

Ja’Miere shared more about his TOP experience:

**What is your favorite thing about TOP?**
The in-school activities.

**What would you like other people to know about TOP?**
Ja’Miere shared that TOP is helpful.

**What do you do in your free time?**
Ja’Miere enjoys playing games.

**What would you like to do in the future?**
Ja’Miere would like to be a cook.

Raising HOPE in the Midst of Uncertainty

A popular student vote on our lesson survey was, “Hope: Identifying who I am and who I want to be.” The lesson began by sharing three things that bring students life. We heard a variety of responses including family, hobbies, quotes, and listening to music. Students used digital applications or paper and other available materials to create their own Hope collage. Students shared their personal qualities, skills, and interest to complete the project. In addition, students considered future career paths and life goals for themselves. To conclude, students shared what they were most hopeful for. While many are hopeful for the quarantine and social distancing to end soon, a lot are also excited about their futures and things they will accomplish.

“There is hope, even when your brain tells you there isn’t”

John Green, submitted by Maline, 8th grade