



## Welcome to TOP: Fall Overview

The 2020-2021 School year brought a lot of change for students and TOP! Students have been keeping up with virtual learning and attending Zoom calls for all their classes. So, what does TOP on Zoom look like?

Over the summer, staff adapted TOP lessons to a virtual setting. Facilitators incorporate online tools, verbal share outs, and Google Classroom to connect and collaborate with students. There is always a new website or tool to find when we need a different activity! Check out the TOP Facilitator Bitmoji's below; we include them in all our slide decks with students!

In addition to a switch to virtual learning and facilitating, TOP at BW happens during PE classes this year. Each week a connection to the CDC's National Health Education Standards is made and movement breaks are incorporated. We are excited for this partnership, and what the next few months hold!



Proud member of

United Way of Greater St. Louis



St. Louis County Children's Service Fund  
*Keeping Kids First*

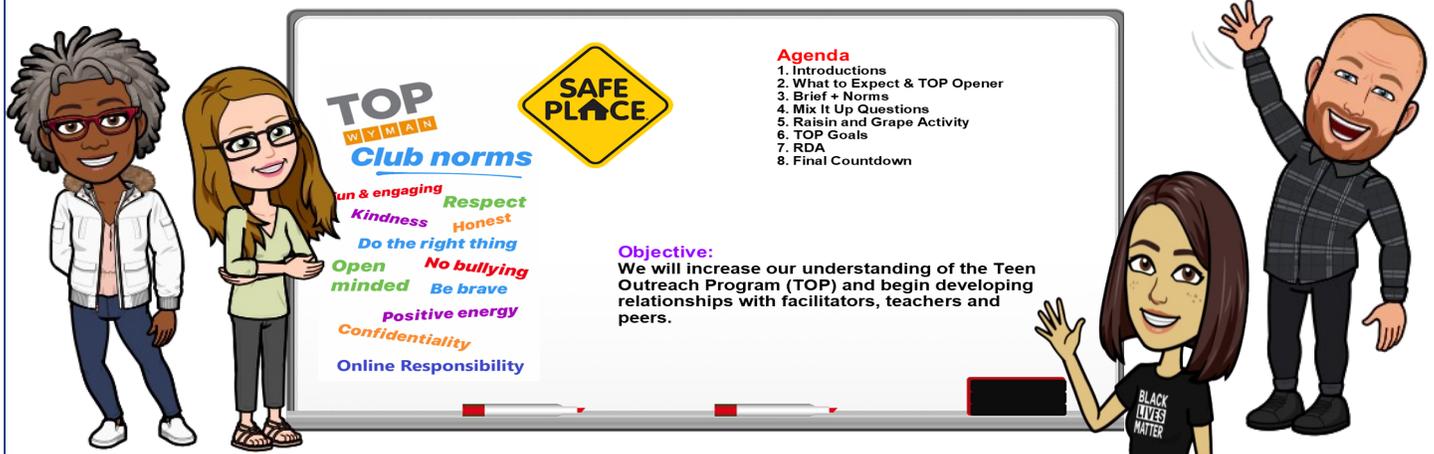


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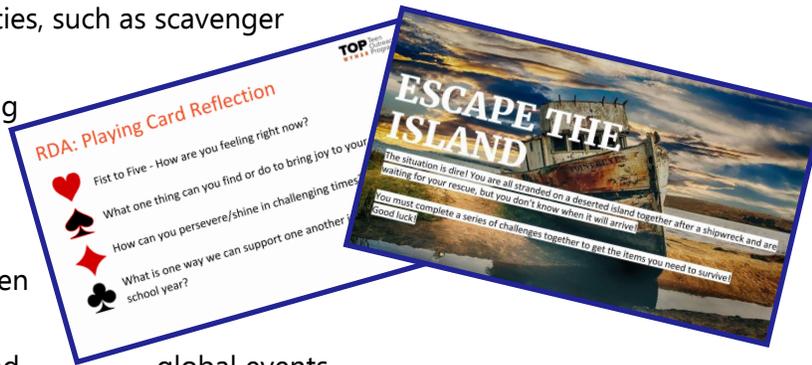
*CSL and the BW Playlist*



## Reflecting on Past, Present, and Future

We have had many great moments in TOP so far this school year, despite being physically distanced.

Some of our favorite moments have been teambuilding activities, such as scavenger hunts, "get to know you" activities during each TOP Club, and even a virtual escape room! All TOP Clubs were given an opportunity to process the local and global events of 2020. Students took a look back and discussed life as a 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grader before the COVID19 pandemic. Students also had an opportunity to



reflect on and discuss racism and structural disadvantages endured by black people in the United States. Students shared things that make them hopeful and what they are looking forward to in the future, (e.g., a cure for the Coronavirus, good health for loved ones, an end to racism, good grades, and fun at school).

## CSL and the Brittany Woods "B-Dub" Playlist

With creativity and passion, students proved we can support our communities even from a distance. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade scholars kicked off their "Give Back" projects by designing digital gratitude cards for people and communities of their choice. Eighth grade scholars were able to impact grades 3-5 within University City by making bookmarks using computer designing platforms. Students worked hard and exercised their social emotional learning skills; especially empathy and problem-solving.

Seventh and eighth graders utilized a unique online game called Free Rice Challenge which assists people driven into hunger by conflict and the impact of climate change. Students "racked up" points and scratched that competitive itch by answering questions in a multitude of categories in an effort to generate ad revenue on the website, benefiting the United Nations World Food Programme.



The 8<sup>th</sup> grade scholars continue to carry the community service learning momentum and have shown their care and concern to the people and communities they are close to by sharing stress cool down tools. Students flexed the social emotional learning skill of emotion management by writing customized lists of calming strategies which they used to create "Cool Down Tips" jars or bags for someone they care about who may be experiencing high stress or heightened emotions. Other 8<sup>th</sup> grade clubs focused on creating a Brittany Woods "B-Dub" playlist. The influence of music to calm down was, hands down, one of the top strategies used and discussed by students. Student song selections were added to the playlist with the goal of sharing it with teachers to play during independent work time in class to encourage calm, focus, and motivation. We can't wait to see what teens come up with next!