Welcome back 8th graders!

The Teen Outreach Program (TOP) team arrived at Brittany Woods Middle School prepared and excited for an impactful year of doing TOP in person!

Rising 8th graders arrived ready to learn and step into their new role as leaders in the school. The focus of the 8th grade TOP clubs in the first semester was identifying personal communities and giving back to those communities. They proudly claimed membership of communities such as: TOP Club, athletic teams, video gaming, music, LGBTQIA+, and many more. The 8th grade scholars worked to create a visual of the communities that impact their lives by drawing maps of those communities and then determined ways to strengthen their communities. The 8th grade TOP clubs also learned how to create a budget and exercised their empathy and money management skills by identifying items that were later purchased to give to a community organization. We are excited to explore more topics related to SEL skills for the rest of the semester!

Hello 7th graders!

The 7th grade year started with building important life skills. Our scholars practiced active listening, learned how to identify their emotions, and how to calm their stressors. Students were also able to talk about their identities and learn about different communities they are a part of. Through indirect community service activities, they practiced empathy, and discussed how to encourage others with words and acts of kindness that led up to their first Community Service Learning (CSL) trip. The four CSL locations focused on the environment, children and family services, and animal care and control. The teens are off to a great start as they continue to enhance necessary social, emotional, and life skills!

7th grade students sorted seeds at the Green Center.
Thank you Delta Dental!

We would like to thank Delta Dental for providing us with funds to purchase group supplies for Social Emotional Learning lessons and Community Service Learning projects for the 2021-2022 school year to support the delivery of TOP!

Supplies included markers, post its, paper, glue, scissors, journals, flip chart paper, art supplies, office supplies, hand sanitizer, and Lysol wipes. Examples of Community Service Learning project supplies included tissue paper, button making supplies, socks, and puff paint. TOP is very excited to continue to purchase more supplies with this generous donation. Take a look at all of the supplies we were able to purchase at the beginning of the school year to support the implementation of TOP at Brittany Woods!

When is a time you felt proud of yourself in TOP?

“When I got to learn about new things that I am interested in.”
—Brooklyn

“I learned how to care about people’s feelings and how to treat them.”
—Richard

“When I get to TOP on time and that it is a drama free room.”
—Gabby

“To be chosen to be a TOP Representative for my club.”
—Courtland

“Everyday, when we are talking about ourselves.”
—Issa

“When we talked about money management and created donation kits for LifeWise.”
—London

“When we got back from the CSL field trip and did the escape room and my team won.”
—Aedyn

Buckets, Ms. Jackson, London, and Cheezy are holding up the donation kits for LifeWise.

Aedyn broke into the bag to reflect on their CSL field trip to LifeWise.
Making an Impact When it Counts

Challenges have been abundant during the last year and a half but so has our student creativity in supporting others through Community Service Learning (CSL). Some of the communities students helped support through indirect projects have included making DIY no-slip socks for Friends of Kids with Cancer, tissue paper flowers for Brittany Woods teachers, stress balloons for classrooms, advocacy posters, magnets and buttons, book recommendation bookmarks for the library, and cat and dogs toys for Animal Protective Association Adoption Center, among others.

“It’s important to do CSL to give back to others.”
—Kaiden

“CSL is a time where I can learn about my community.”
—Bryan
Making an Impact in the Community

Students have also ventured out on CSL field trips, showing the skills they have been practicing by engaging in direct work.

So far, seventh grade clubs have visited seven different organizations and sites. Students were able to make dog treats, sort school supplies, package diapers, plant flowers, sort seeds, and help create a thrift store for clothes! A big thank you to St. Louis County Pet Adoption Center, U City in Bloom, A Red Circle, STL Diaper Bank, The Green Center, KidSmart, and LifeWise for partnering with Brittany Woods Teen Outreach Program.

TOP is excited to take the eighth graders on their field trips on November 15 and November 19 to give back to the community.

“Going on CSL field trips is important to help the community and see what they need.” —Mya

“CSL field trips taught me to be more selfless towards other people.” —Harley

Students helped organize the thrift store at LifeWise so that their clients were able to shop for affordable items and clothing.

Students organized school supplies, budgeted items, and stacked crates at KidSmart. KidSmart gives free school supplies to teachers and schools around St. Louis!
Our TOP Leaders

Our TOP Representatives meet monthly to grow their leadership skills and work to make our TOP Clubs even better. Students are able to provide TOP with feedback to make sure we are talking about topics students enjoy and doing community service projects that they suggest. Congrats to our 2021-2022 7th and 8th grade TOP Reps!

7th Grade TOP Representatives:
- Karhon
- Gerard
- Bryan
- Richard
- Brooklyn
- Kaleb
- Reana
- Simonne

8th Grade TOP Representatives
- Kyla
- Derris
- Rozier
- Laniyah
- Zoe
- Kenia
- Kailey
- Milo
- Jordan
- Courtland

Thank you to all these students for being leaders in TOP!