

TOP Teen Outreach Program

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BRITTANY WOODS MIDDLE SCHOOL | SPRING | 2022



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END OF YEAR WRAP-UP

We cannot believe that the year is coming to an end! Students have been able to speak up about topics they care about, go out into the community to volunteer their time and practice their SEL skills, and create projects to give back to the Brittany Woods community. Now it is time to gear up and celebrate all their accomplishments by reflecting on this past year and how students can take those skills into the future.

For the next couple of weeks, students will be talking about mental health and creating projects to support students and teachers, creating 6th grade survival guides, making 8th grade send-off journals, teacher appreciation gifts, and celebrating all their hard work during the last week of TOP. We are excited to end this year on a fun and positive note!



Proud partner of



Greater St. Louis



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

"I learned how to let people speak their mind without getting mad."

- Mariah



GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY

This spring, students worked on a variety of indirect projects ranging from winter care kits for the unhoused to no-slip socks for Friends of Kids with Cancer. Projects such as cut and tie blankets were created by students to support many families in the University City School District.

Students and staff were excited to finally get out of the classroom and into the community this spring! Students were able to participate in direct community service learning experiences at a variety of locations. TOP took the 7th and 8th grade scholars to Greenwood Cemetery, LifeWise STL, Loaves and Fishes, Promise Community Homes, The Green Center, Mission: St. Louis, and Pershing Elementary School.



*"The best part was the field trip because we were helping the community."
- Jayvionne*

ART ON PURPOSE

The 8th grade TOP clubs have done it again! From concept to paint brush, 8th grade students shared ideas and then voted on themes and artwork to include in their 8th grade mural. This year, TOP partnered with local artist and proud Brittany Woods and U City alumnus, Melshonda Lowe-Dobbins, who rendered and sketched the student ideas and chosen themes of culture, respect, and freedom and brought the design to life. The mural is set to be mounted and displayed before the end of the school year and before the 8th grade promotion, so make sure to be on the lookout and congratulate the 8th grade students!



SENSITIVE SUBJECTS

This semester, TOP created a safe space for students at Brittany Woods to be educated and discuss subjects that are typically considered sensitive or less desirable to talk about. Students engaged in lessons that include reproductive anatomy, puberty, body image, contraception, sexually transmitted infections, mental health, and healthy relationships. Students who were less comfortable engaging in conversations with sensitive subjects were allowed to sit out on clubs and complete other projects in the TOP office, like finishing up hygiene kits to donate to the Little Bit Foundation.

During club, there has been a focus on increasing understanding of sensitive subjects. Reproductive anatomy and puberty lessons focused on educating students on how the body grows and changes from being a child to becoming an adult. Lessons on body image allowed students to create positive body image messages and explore messages that may impact body image. The topic of contraception provided understanding of various methods of contraception, including how they work and their effectiveness rates. Students were educated on sexually transmitted infections discussing prevention, how they are contracted and treatment. The subject of mental health was a popular topic that students desired to talk about. Students had conversations on how adopting pets can affect mental health. They discussed things they do for self-care to stay healthy mentally and conversations they have with their friends to help them during difficult times. Students also incorporated Community Service Learning projects to help expand knowledge of others on sensitive subjects as well.

