

**Student Outreach Program**

**For Blackburn Middle School**

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## **BLACKBURN MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT OUTREACH SERVICES**

### **Proposed Project**

To develop a comprehensive intervention/prevention program, which will be called the Student Outreach Services program, for Blackburn Middle School. This program will operate as the organizational umbrella for all community based and/or volunteer programs. It will also include a curriculum for the expansion of the existing mentoring program.

### **Introduction**

Blackburn Middle School (Blackburn) is located in West Jackson, U.S. Census Tract 31. According to 1990 Census data, 49% of the population were below poverty level, while 48.1% of the population were without a high school diploma. To address these and other factors that can impede the educational development of its students, Blackburn under the direction of Principal William Revies, is working to expand and create effective community based programs.

The total enrollment at Blackburn is 705 students, grades 6, 7, and 8. The ethnic make up of the students as well as the community is 100% African American. There are currently several community based programs operating at Blackburn which include the Adopt-a-School program, JSU Work-Study Student Tutoring, Parents on Patrol (POPS) and the Mayors Youth Initiative. There are also several volunteers from the business community that serve as mentors for the students. However, there is a need to develop a comprehensive program, which encompasses existing programs and incorporates new human and instructional resources.

### **Blackburn Middle School Mission Statement**

Blackburn Middle School envisions a positive learning environment to prepare students to develop social skills, decide career goals and inspirations, and demonstrate high levels of performance in academics and extracurricular activities. Our mission emphasizes the academic and the social development of the total child enabling him/her to become self-directed in preparation for high school and for responsible entrance into the community as well as into a global society.

## **Community Action Team Vision Statement**

Through the development of a Student Outreach Services program at Blackburn Middle School, we will actively connect the energies and capabilities existing at Blackburn and the West Jackson community to provide 6<sup>th</sup> grade students with the self-esteem, confidence, character, and competence they need to lead productive lives.

## **Community Action Team Mission**

In accordance with the school mission, our mission is to coordinate existing resources at Blackburn Middle School and the west Jackson community to build a Student Outreach Services program for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. This program will promote personal development; increase self-esteem; promote academic achievement; increase economic self-sufficiency, and expand career and/or academic options for students.

## **Outreach Programs**

The following programs will be available as part of Student Outreach Services:

- Lunch Buddy Program – Involves an adult from the community ( or a staff volunteer) coming into the school and having lunch with a child once a week.
- One-on-One Mentoring – Involves an adult from the community (or a staff volunteer) sharing at least one hour per week with an assigned student.
- Peer Mentoring – This program will be used to integrate new students into a school or to offer academic support from an older student.
- Group Mentoring – Involves all mentors and mentees in a group setting once a month for one hour for discussions and activities. A list of proposed topics is included. Girls and boys will be in separate group sessions.
- Tutoring Program – Involves volunteers from the community, including JSU students to offer academic assistance on an as needed basis.
- Parents on Patrol (POPS) – Parenting skills and enrichment classes for Blackburn parents which involves parent, teachers, and community volunteers.

## **Program Orientation**

An brief orientation will be developed for individuals participating in any of the Student Outreach Services programs. This orientation would be mandatory for both students and volunteers, outlining rules and expectations.

## **Evaluation**

Sixth grade students were chosen so that school officials would be able to monitor the affects of the program over a three year period. There will be some form of evaluation done on students to monitor progress both prior to and after completion.

## **Proposed Group Mentoring Curriculum**

- Book Club (reading assignments & discussions)
- Speakers Guild
- Community Service
- Rap Sessions
- Food and Nutrition
- Team Building
- Hygiene/ Grooming
- “Diva in Training”
- “Gentlemen in Training”
- The Box Project
- Improving our Environment (taking pride in where we live)
- Drug, Alcohol, Tobacco Awareness (you have a right to say no)
- Identifying you Talent(s)
- “No Shame in My Game” (getting over embarrassing situations)
- Goals and Dreams (how to set them and what to do with them)
- Images (how we see ourselves, how society perceives us)
- Money Smart (how to make, save, spend, and understand money)
- Peer pressure (to fit in or not fit in, that is the question)
- Leadership development
- Anger Management/ Conflict Resolution
- “Flip the Script” (students become the teachers)
- Creative Writing
- R-E-S-P-E-C-T