



THE QUEST

NORMANDY 21ST CENTURY PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

WHAT IS 21ST CENTURY?

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) initiative is the only federal funding source dedicated exclusively to supporting local afterschool, before-school, and summer learning programs. As part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), each state receives funds based on its share of Title I funding. Throughout the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the Normandy School Collaborative (NSC) in Conjunction with Better Family Life, INC (BFL) has been operating the program for the past 9 years along with several community partners including Superior Support Service, Chess Club, Science Center, Mad Science, Computer Village, America STL Scores.

The goals of the program are to support or increase student achievement and sense of competence in the areas of reading/communication arts, mathematics, and science; to develop and maintain a quality program that includes a safe and supportive environment, positive interactions, and meaningful opportunities for engagement and; to enhance youth's college and career readiness skills and behaviors, including positive school behaviors, personal skills and social skills and commitment to learning.

Students involved in the program experience tutoring, hot meals daily, transportation, as well as numerous team activities including science, technology, engineering, arts, athletics, and mathematics.

Check out Better Family Life's documentary on the 21st Century After School Program on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pyYxTpztHE>.

EVENTS

AMERICA SCORES POETRY SLAM

AMERICA SCORES SOCCER TOURNAMENT

SUMMER CAMP 2018

CELEBRATING OUR LEGACY



Youth were dressed to impress as they graced the red carpet at Better Family Life's 5th Annual Jr. Unity Ball on Sat., Feb. 3rd at the BFL Cultural, Educational, and Business Center. The premier event "Celebrating Our Legacy" integrated the sounds and cultural inspiration of Mardi Gras while providing inspiration, education, and entertainment for youth aged 5-18.

BFL's Kuumba Youth Performance Ensemble (K.Y.P.E), and a second-line drumline started the party



and before anyone made it to the dance floor. The evening also included a variety of art activities, Mad Science, the America Scores poetry slam and BFL's Talented 10th awards and scholarship. During the awards ceremony, special recognition was given to those who have made a difference in our community. Several students were honored. Amongst recipients was one of Normandy's 21st Century students, Marquel Carter, an 8th grader at Normandy 7th and 8th Grade Center.



Better Family Life values the importance of community by celebrating the triumphs of our youth. The overall message of the evening was hope; achievement and the path to success are accessible to any youth.



Cheerleading Victory for the Jefferson Jaguars

Cheerleading and Performing was the title that came from 3rd grader, Ryliegh Tennin when she spoke as a poet at the first BFL Cheerleading Competition at Barack Obama Elementary in the Normandy School District. The competition consisted of poetry, cheerleading, dancing, step, and a special guest.

The Jefferson Jaguars cheerleading team was expecting to come in second place. Shanna Mims shared that she was jumping for joy when they ended up winning first. "I had to show off with my roundoff and toe touch split. I went home so proud of myself and my teammates," Shanna said.

Another Jaguar, Diwaly Sarr expressed her excitement at

her team's first place win. Diwaly shared how much fun she had watching the Dragons, Tigers, and Eagles perform at the competition.

Team Captain, Anandra Chancey shared, "As a positive leader, our team knows how to take accountability, and we also demonstrated teamwork. We knew what the expectations were, and we took on the challenge."

Tambra Brown, the Jaguar's coach expressed that the competition was a much-needed event for her girls. "We were excited for this event to happen and we are surely looking forward to next year's adventure."



21ST Century Afterschool Team:

Tamara Brown
Chris Taylor

Principal:

Ms. Robin Vaulx-Williams

School Coordinator:

Arthur Howard

Reaching Student Potential at Washington Elementary

**21ST Century
Afterschool Team:**
Ricky Hughes
Ashley Cummings

Principal:
Ms. Netra Taylor-Nichols

School Coordinator:
Mrs. Johnson



When given the opportunity, all students are capable of success, as recognized of fifth-grade student, Divine Robinson. While her grades at Washington Elementary School were fair, BFL believed she had the potential to be a straight- A student.

Divine has a true gift of drawing, by nurturing and supporting her during after school BFL was able to building on her strengths. As a result Divine felt encouraged and confident. She has created a drawing of a young girl with flowing hair, vivid features, and different outfits.

It didn't take long for Divine's

drawings to become popular among other students in 21st Century. This has created a bond among the students that transcends grade levels.

We have watched Divine's confidence grow tremendously since encouraging her to develop her drawings. Her grades have since improved to show her potential.

All students have the potential to do great things. It is our duty to recognize and support their gifts and giving them the opportunity to grow.

Learning to Stop, Think, and Act at Lucas Crossing

**21ST Century
Afterschool Team:**
Leslie Byrd-Tate
Christopher Creath

Principal:
Ms. Tiffany McConell

School Coordinator:
Mrs. Weaver

Students at Lucas Crossing, Jeremiah Ellis, Tyrell Harris, and Canton Beck have had learned and grown through the 21st Century After School Program. These three students are smart boys, but they use to struggle to with controlling their anger, and it ultimately controlled their lives.

The 21st Century program has taught Jeremiah, Tyrell, and Canton to "Stop, Think, and Act," which has become a daily routine for them. Jeremiah shares, "I'm glad I'm able to take the time out to breathe now, because at first I would just space out, but that didn't do anything but get me in trou-

ble."

Tyrell states that he is a role model for his sister and Jeremiah his cousin, Tyrell said, "I have to be better because I have them looking up to me. I have to lead by example."

Canton expressed that he doesn't want to be angry and lose his temper so much. Canton said that he wants to do this not only for himself, but for his family. He stated, "I really want to be a better person. With Stop, Think, and Act, I am becoming just that, a better me."

Jeremiah, Tyrell, and Canton have agreed that



they should Stop, Think and Act on every opportunity to explore new activities and experiences to better themselves through 21st Century.

Academics and Temperament Achievement at N 7th/8th Center

**21ST Century
Afterschool Team:**
Gonz Jove
Sharnell Sharp

Principal:
Mr. Andrew Miller

School Coordinator:
Mrs. Cunningham



Through Better Family Life's 21st Century After School Program, the Normandy 7th and 8th Grade Center implemented a tutoring/mentoring model for students with academic deficiencies, as well as, behavioral challenges. Students were identified to attend tutoring sessions lead by Mrs. Van and Mrs. Givens.

At the start of the new program, one student, Marquel Carter was identified due to his temper which controlled his life and academics. He often missed out on instruction time when his temper took over.

With the help of Normandy's security guard, Ms. Holly, the BFL team started to work and support Marquel.

Through behavior modification techniques, consistent words of encouragement, and patience; Marquel's self-control began to improve. His temperament and grades, specifically in math were positively impacted through the program.

In working with youth, it is essential to recognize the need for compassion and in return, our youth will become encouraged and capable of wonderful



Lessons of Respect at Barack Obama Elementary

At Barack Obama Elementary students are taught to respect themselves, others, and property at 21st Century After School Program. BFL works constantly to provide positive behavior intervention and a safe facility for students.

First grader, Brenten McNair was known for doing dangerous things, such as climbing bathroom stalls or stairway railings during and after school.

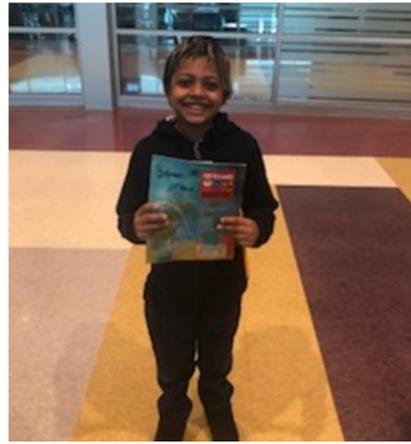
Valli, a BFL staff member assigned to BOES noticed his behavior and reached out to Brenten's grandmother to express concern, as well as, supportive approach to stop Brenten's behavior.

Valli began keeping Brenten close and redirecting his energy by asking him to

assist with different activities, such as passing out art materials and keeping time. Brenten was eager to help and happy to have something to keep him busy.

Since then, Brenten hasn't been getting hurt and he is no longer climbing throughout the building. His grandmother stated, "He just needed someone to be patient with him and I'm glad it was BFL."

Valli takes pride in the progress of Brenten and working with all her students and their families. She believes it really does take a village and a community to raise our children.



21st Century Afterschool Team:
Valli McElroy
William Tart

Principal:
Ms. Netra Taylor-Nichols

School Coordinator:
Mrs. Brand

Normandy Schools Collaborative

Normandy Vision

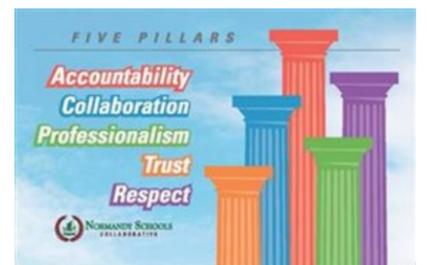
Graduates who act ethically, think critically, solve problems, communicate effectively, and collaborate with purpose for success in today's changing world.

Mission Statement

Equipping Students to Solve 21st Century Challenges

Normandy Motto

Changing Lives Today. Educating for the Future!



Normandy Schools Collaborative:
Dr. Charles Pearson
Dr. Phillip Pusateri
Ms. Tina Clark Scott

Better Family Life:
Ms. Miranda Jones
Mr. Terrance Cauley



Better Family Life, INC.
5415 Page Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63112

Phone:
(314) 454-0622 ext. 716

Fax:
(314) 669 - 9419

Email:
info@betterfamilylife.org

