



An Achievable Dream Middle School

Young Men of Distinction

In partnership with The Achievable Dream Academy, the Young Men of Distinction, along with men of the Kappa Iota Iota chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated cleaned up the school court yard. The students and mentors raked, pulled weeds, shoveled and mulched for the overall beautification of the court yard. While the beautification of the school was an excellent opportunity for the students to give back to their community, it also provided them with a time of fellowship and mentoring amongst the two groups. In addition, Young Men of Distinction participated in the NNPS RISE Conference, the NAACP Life Membership Banquet, and the MLK Breakfast at the Hampton Roads Convention Center.

Crittenden

Bloom Girls' Empowerment Program

Crittenden's Bloom chapter took charge in various endeavors. Bloom helped support a local community initiative to make mats for the homeless. Members helped sort, cut and loop the plastic bags used to weave the mats. Members led some of their meetings, fostering relationships and building comradery. Many of the girls developed friendships and social skills that promoted positive behaviors that served as models to the school community during the school day. Bloom

members also joined the Expect Respect group to help develop a school-wide anti-bullying campaign. Also, Bloom members organized and planned for a school-wide talent show to fundraise for their chapter. These funds would have been raised to support Districtwide Bloom initiatives such as the WACENA project which supports the education and empowerment of girls in Uganda.

Cougar Roar Morning Show

The Cougar Roar Morning Show team provided a way for everyone in the school to know about happenings at Crittenden Middle School. Students on the team addressed the school's need for a student-led production by assisting with the transition from phone to video announcements. They recruited more members and also learned how to operate the cameras and switchboard, update the daily script, host effectively and manage themselves as a team. Every morning, they produced a positive news program for the entire school community, often encouraging feedback and contributions. To promote a positive school culture, they incorporated daily reflections, jokes, quotes and a school-wide reminder to 'be great' at the end of each program. The team also made continuous adjustments to the air time and script contents in response to community feedback, helping to make the show a reflection of the entire school.

Young Ladies Leading and Learning

This group started as a small group of girls to support one another in various social-emotional issues. They formed a mentoring partnership with the 5th graders at Epes Elementary, making visits to talk to students about issues important to them and about transitioning to middle school. Young Ladies used their personal experiences to connect to the 5th graders. The ladies were also invited to Lee Hall Elementary for a visit and attended an extended learning field trip to Nauticus with the students. The group helped their peers and themselves through difficult situations and made an intentional effort to remind students to help and not hurt other students. They learned how to use their social media presence to positively influence other students to make better choices.

Young Men of Distinction

Young Men of Distinction has made amazing strides this year with being a new club. The young men have shown their greatness and proved to be great examples of young men striving for the absolute best in life. From the first meeting to now, the members of Young Men of Distinction have learned core values of becoming a young man, had amazing speakers come in and speak on various topics, attended conferences and many various other things.

Young Women of Distinction

Young Women of Distinction's (YWOD) focus this year was engaging students by demonstrating simple ways to feel good about themselves by engaging in acts of service designed to help others. YWOD led activities such as a "Books not Bullies" themed school dance. Students could pay for the dance and/or donate a new or gently used book. In addition, group members used crafts and supplies to create vibrant holiday wreaths. Making candy grams for purchase available to the student body in conjunction with Valentine's Day was a way to promote moments of care, thoughtfulness, appreciation, and kindness, as well as a portion of the money being donated to United Way.

Youth Volunteer Corps

Youth Volunteer Corp (YVC) is a club that does volunteer work and connects students to service learning opportunities. This year YVC planned, prepared and organized a "penny war" to raise money for Operation Smile, a campaign which provides funding for operations for children born with cleft palates. YVC raised over \$400 to donate to Operation Smile and collected cans for the Peninsula Foodbank.

Enterprise

Student Council

Student Council helps develop the spirit of responsibility and the habit of self-discipline among the students. They organize and facilitate student activities, support educational goals and create a positive school environment. They use current technology to network and share ideas, while also recognizing school and individual achievements. The Student Council has been an integral part in planning and organizing various activities such as; fundraisers for United Way, Relay for Life and Operation Smile. They have also collected and donated over 100 lbs. of can goods and packaged over 500 bags for the Peninsula Foodbank. Student Council, also, volunteered for the One City Marathon at Denbigh Community Center, packaging over 1,000 bags.

Gildersleeve

GMS Can Care

Through the use of a can collection system (created by students) and a competition amongst the seventh grade homerooms, students collected soda cans. The cans were collected, counted, and bagged by students and recycled through Sims Metal Management, a company who pays for scrap metal. The students donated each can's tab to the Ronald McDonald House organization which collects the tabs from soda cans as a part of their own fundraising efforts. The money earned from collecting the cans was used to fund beautification projects for the front of the school.

Operation Smile

Operation Smile Club is a student run club whose goal is to educate the school population about the work Operation Smile does in repairing cleft lips and palates. In addition, they fundraise as they learn to work together to altruistically serve those in need. This year, the students earned enough money to fund **four** operations for children in other countries who were born with cleft lips and palates. That is over \$1000!

Squawk Talk

This group was in charge of running the morning show for the school everyday. They relayed daily information needed for all students. They conducted book talks with the Principal and drawings for prizes. They designed the set and constructed daily scripts with information teachers in the building needed to share with the school.

Hines

FCCLA

The Hines Middle School Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Club conducted a cookie bake sale and canned food collection in the FACS classes during the first semester and participated in Back To School night. FCCLA also donated stuffed animals to students in need of toys for the Christmas and prepared and served a meal for the Cultivating Togetherness Night hosted by the assistant principals. FCCLA contributed to the overall school community by preparing and serving a meal for the Family Game Night, which was also hosted by the assistant principals.

Library Helpers & Morning Show Crew

Library Buddies are a group of students who love helping others in the library! They help other students to find books using the library database, suggest books that they have read to other students, and help with circulation first thing in the morning before class. They also help with setting up the Scholastic Bookfairs held in the library and help at the end when we take it down. Students participated in our Barnes and Noble Bookfair where they presented a craft table. These students are also members of the Hines Morning Crew. This club began with 4 students at the beginning of the year and has expanded to 16 students rotating in 3 shifts. They run the controls panel and read the daily announcements live on camera.

Youth Development Club

This school year, our SCA and Youth Development students teamed up to complete numerous activities to provide for our community. These students took

on an important role in the school as student leaders and promoted positive school culture each and every day. Some examples of their hard work include: The United Way Fundraiser - students raised over \$300 dollars, Letters to Local Senior Home - student leaders delivered over 100 handmade valentines day cards to a local rehabilitation center, Fundraiser for Animal Aid Society, and attending trainings and then promoting Expect Respect.

Huntington

Bloom Girls' Empowerment Program

Bloom Leaders helped to change the world by fund raising to secure much needed personal hygiene products for the Women And Children's Empowerment Network in Africa, our sisters in Uganda, Africa. Several students were selected to promote the 3rd annual Girls Empowerment Conference, "More than a Princess" on the Hampton Roads Show on WAVY-10. Moreover, they represented Bloom as one of the schools who teleconferenced with our WACENA sisters. Helping to take care of others, the girls created posters of encouragement for the Grafton Clippers as they suffered a fire on their campus. They visited the National Museum of African American History & Culture. Finally, they led the anti-bullying efforts at Huntington Middle School.

Passage

Expect Respect

Expect Respect has partnered with SCA to promote anti-bullying. These students attended training at the Denbigh Community Center. They also met once a week after school to discuss ideas they could share during the "Morning Show." They collaborated with each and came up with a key word that would alarm others that someone was being bullied. The keyword is "Chill Out."

Morning Show

Our Morning Show plays a major role in our school culture. This YouTube Live club allows students to tap into the technology world and express themselves in a

humorous way. The students share current events and create relatable skits. Morning Show members make announcements to ensure that everyone is tuned in to the Morning Show and make sure our students are dismissed from the building daily. They connect with our families by putting together wonderful videos of different events, including the live broadcast of the Students vs. Teachers Basketball Game. The Morning Show also connected with other clubs to help reinforce the “Panthers” way via videos with administrators.

SCA

Our SCA has done great things this year. They met with the principal to share their vision. They’ve partner with Youth Development, PBIS, and “Expect Respect.” A suggestion box was placed on every grade level hallway for students to share suggestions and to reach out for support. Before COVID-19, the SCA was planning a “Clean Up” day at Passage and a tutorial session that was going to be student-led. The students attended workshops and training sessions. They also had training on bullying awareness. The group came up with the word “Chill Out” for students to use to alert others about a bullying issue. SCA continues to promote a positive community with our school.

Washington

6th Grade Team

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)/VCU Best in Bay Watersheds grant, made it possible for the 6th grade team to take part in an oyster service project. Students learned about aquaculture, explored the health of the James River, work in groups to build a filter, and learned about oysters and their impact on the Bay. A group of students created a poster and handout describing the importance of healthy oyster populations to maintaining the Chesapeake Bay watersheds and traveled to Richmond to share the school’s plan with local representatives. In addition to researching and sharing information about Oyster Gardening at STEM day, the students also worked to build oyster cages for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

National Junior Honor Society

The National Junior Honor Society at Booker T. Washington Middle School showed leadership through their Mentor Tutoring Program. The 8th grade NJHS members volunteered as peer tutors every Tuesday after school to help 6th graders with their homework and assignments. They promoted a positive school culture by building relationships while providing academic guidance. The results were evident as there was always a packed room of 6th graders each Tuesday after school with their 8th grade buddies.

Student Council Association (SCA)

The Student Council Association and the Youth Volunteer Corps focused on giving back to the community. YVC, under the leadership of teacher Tiffany Schaeffer, collected thousands of canned goods for the Virginia Peninsula Food Bank. They put together a competition between homerooms with an “out of dress code for a day” prize that was awarded to one class per grade level. Their enthusiasm for the project was contagious and the students were excited to participate. SCA volunteered at Immaculate Conception Church in Hampton along with members of the PTA to help serve lunch to community members in need. They also collected socks for the homeless. Each year the SCA, guided by the experienced leadership of teacher Amy Ziembra, plans and sponsors two school dances. The proceeds from the dances go toward a school-based community project.