



In Their Own Words

Student quotes describing what they got out of Zone 126 partner programming during the 2016–2017 Academic Year.¹



ACADEMIC SUCCESS / BEHAVIORS / SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT

“It actually helped during class because a class would sometimes have a lot of problems (and we learned how to solve them)”

.....



We showed up at school because we were looking forward to it.



¹ Some quotes have been edited for clarity.



COMMUNITY

“Also the program helps us build connections in our class.”

“Well, it made me be friends with the people in my class, so maybe next year when I see them, I’ll probably give them a high-five and like it’ll feel good, because I don’t really have friends like that. The class did bring some friendships together, so it was good.”

“At the end we would all eventually have different perspectives on what we were doing, but in the end they would get us together and we would talk about our thoughts and ideas.”

“

I learned that you’re not alone in the world, that you have a lot of people that you can relate to.

”



CULTURAL COMPETENCY

“It made me be open minded. ... Say that maybe her feelings may be different from my feelings, and what she thinks may be different from what I think, but to be open minded about how she feels and how I feel.”

“It’s a good way to engage ourselves, like with other students and it’s a good way to get to know each other.”

“I would say ... what the program taught me is everyone’s entitled to their opinions and they’re entitled to their feelings ... and you have to respect it.”



LIFE SKILLS

“It taught you that it was ok to have ideas even though they’re different, but it’s ok to say them because nobody’s gonna judge you. So it’s like opening up to say whatever you want to say and to be creative with it.”

.....
“It taught us about bad relationships, like when we have issues with our parents and everyday people, and how to deal with them.”

.....
“It helps you to engage more with others.”

.....
“With my personal life, the program helped me have a better relationship with my mom. Because I learned like so many things, and I learned like how to handle different situations, like how to get a positive outcome.”

.....
“And the games, I think that was about having trust in other people.”

.....
“The instructors also taught us how to make other people feel good. Like how to make them feel better.”



We learned how to make the situation better instead of having the conflict.

“Like my group, we were trying to pick one poem to do as our final project and we couldn’t choose between two stories because one of the kids was here and the other one wasn’t. So when they were both here, they were like ‘I want to put my story’ and the other one’s like ‘I want to put mine too.’ So to compromise we both put them together.”

.....
“Listening to each other.”

.....
“Paying attention to one another.”

.....
“Because there’s people who we didn’t really talk to before but ... after we did it, we started communicating.”

.....
“The program just brings you out as a person more, basically make you more social, friendly, that’s what it does.”

.....
“To learn how to work with other people.”



POSITIVE LIFE CHOICES

.....

“I learned that if somebody gets you upset, be a bigger person and talk things out instead of ...screaming at each other and stuff like that.”

.....

“Instead of maybe getting angry over a certain situation, (program staff) would tell us, ‘oh think it through.’ And when we would be doing the acting it would be in the middle of a discussion and one actor would say ‘pause’ or ‘freeze’ and we would talk about how we could control the situation differently.”



POSITIVE CORE VALUES / SENSE OF SELF

“We learned about how we all, each one of us have rights to our feelings, we have the right to feel what we feel in certain situations.”

.....

“The program teaches you to stand up for each other. And stand up for what you believe in...”

.....

“It makes you a better person.”

.....

“It helps you gain confidence.”

.....

“I feel that the experience helps you be true to yourself, because at times you’re lying to yourself”

“

Have fun being yourself, who you truly are. Don't worry, be who you want to be.

”

.....

“I learned that I should express my feelings, because there’s other people who are having the same problems.’ I feel like it helped me express myself more.”