

Happy Black History Month!

VOL. 1 ISSUE 3 · FEB 2022



A note from Mentoring.org

A national mentoring organization.

February is Black History Month, a celebration of the lives and historic contributions of Black Americans. While we champion the great impact on American history and successes had by Black adults, we must remember to celebrate our Black youth. Remember that we, as caring adults, have the opportunity to co-create solutions and spaces that best serve Black youth and recognize the impression they will leave on our country generation after generation. Black youth have spoken into existence a just world and fought against systemic racism and violence. And in the face of that, they have also learned, played, and lived. They have been mentors and mentees that have helped push our movement forward.

Kings Mentoring Program Update



The boys in the Kings mentoring program at North Fayette Elementary are learning a lot this month. Jay Jones, the program founder, talked to them last week about the changes that the boys were going through and how to be responsible through those changes.

The bulk of the session was spent talking about peer pressure which has been a focus for the group this month. Jones taught the boys about them being at pivotal points in their lives and how they can either be moving forward or backwards based on the decisions they make. The boys were challenged to write a poem/rap about anything that spoke to them.

“THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS OTHER PEOPLE’S CHILDREN.”BILL RUSSELL, MENTOR CO-FOUNDER

MENTOR OF THE MONTH

Jamie Bigby



"Mentors are essential. If I didn't have mentors that pulled me aside and said 'Hey I see you', I don't think I would be here", Jamie said confidently. Mentorship is the driving force behind why he pursued a career in teaching.

He is currently an adjunct professor at Morehouse College and Georgia State University teaching intro to sociology classes. He just received his Masters of Arts in Sociology and is actively pursuing his PHD at Georgia State in Sociology. He hopes to become a professor. His favorite parts of teaching are being able to get to know his students through discussions in class.

Jamie believes that mentoring is not only a part of his job but is a huge part of who he is. He expressed, "I want to help young people become the best versions of themselves." He said that mentoring is an important part of young people's development.

Jamie also mentors by serving in youth ministry at a local church in Fayette County. Once he became aware of the need for mentors, he signed up and invited his friends. There are now two other mentors that have joined the program thanks to his diligence to share about the urgent need for mentors, specifically male mentors of color.

Jamie is a mentor at McIntosh high school. He grew up in Fayette County and feels inspired about the opportunity to give back and serve the community that helped him get to where he is now. He's learned a lot about his mentee so far. He shared, "I've learned that he likes art. He's into storytelling and script writing. He wants to get into the TV/movie producing industry. He wants to start off with writing stories." Jamie looks forward to meeting with his mentee each week after he teaches classes at Morehouse.

Jamie believes in the impact of giving back the support that has led him to pursuing a career that is all about supporting young people. He said, "One thing I try to share with others is the idea of paying it forward. The same kind of help you receive, you should try to do for others. Without the help of others how far can we really get?" Jamie is an example of letting the support he received compel him to set aside time in his day to give that same support to his mentee.

Jamie has been a huge asset to have within the program. Stay tuned for next month's newsletter to learn more about the mentors serving in our schools!

RISE

Change. Connection. Community.



Seventh grade students in the BMMS RISE program spread acts of kindness this month on their campus.

A note from RISE Coach Aaryn Cooley-Gooden.

When we asked students to think about who they wanted to surprise with a kind gesture, Ryan Piddington chose Dr. Broadhead. He shared that Dr. B has a nickname for him and that he wanted to incorporate that into his surprise. We printed out a picture of bubbles because Ryan explained that that is what Dr. B calls him. Ryan and Dr. B shared the story behind the nickname. One day, Ryan asked Dr. B to "Say bubbles... Now say it angrily." Dr. B was hesitant, not knowing where the joke was going, so he replied, "The only way I can call you bubbles angrily is if I name you bubbles," and thus the nickname was born. They have been calling each other bubbles since. So Ryan decided to give Dr. B a bottle of bubbles and had fun wrapping it up VERY intricately to add some suspense to the moment. It was great and Dr. B appreciated the thoughtful and personal gesture.



Twenty High Schoolers from Whitewater High School were trained this month to be mentors. The students will be serving at elementary schools throughout Fayette County during the schools' after-school programs. The students were very enthusiastic about being the mentors they needed when they were in elementary school.

COUNSELORS, EMAIL DAVIS.CORA@FCBOE.ORG IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN STARTING A HITEEN PROGRAM AT YOUR HIGH SCHOOL.