

• NOVEMBER 2020 •

TRAILBLAZERS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



ANCHOR TEXTS OF SUMMER 2020!



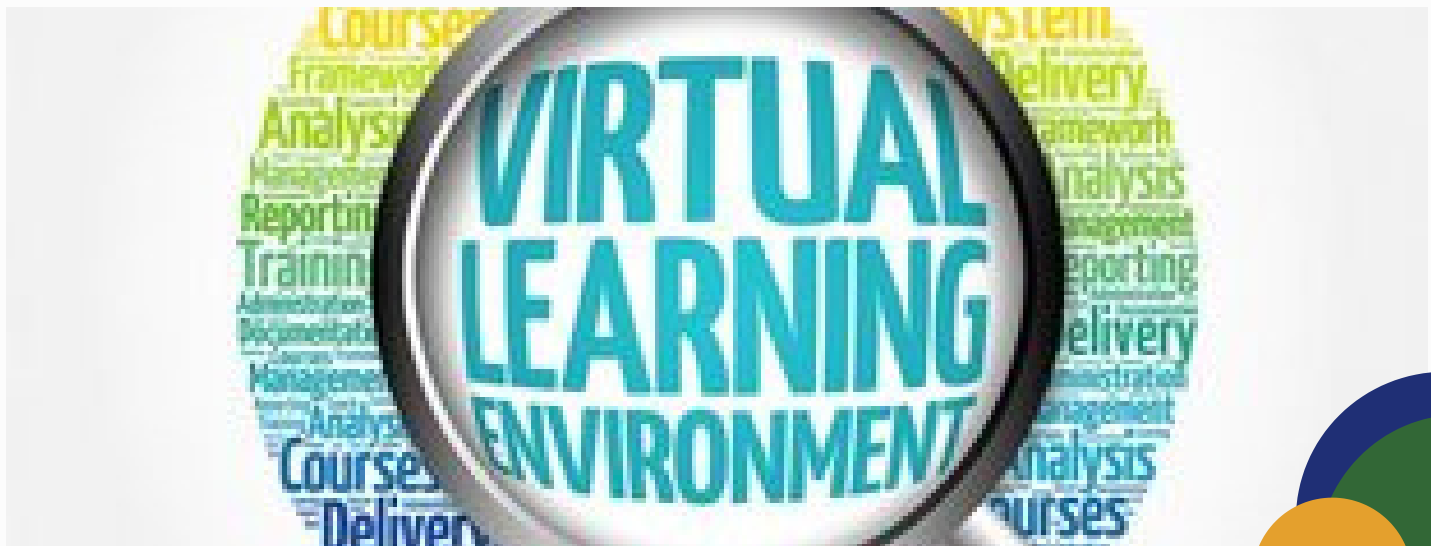
SUMMER 2020

During the summer of 2020, BRAVE facilitated 2 classes, serving 31 students, with a focus on racial identity and social justice. Over the summer, we took an expeditionary learning approach to developing a strong sense of self. Using a social justice lens, Trailblazers were able to explore self-identity.

Our youngest Trailblazers explored the concept of self through our anchor text *Blended* by Sharon Draper. In *Blended*, students learned about a young girl, Isabella, who struggles to find herself within her mixed identity. This text allowed us to have deep discussions about race and racial identity. They also had the opportunity to bury some of their favorite self-identity assignments in a time capsule!

Our more mature Trailblazers explored race and self-identity through our anchor text *Kindred* by Octavia Butler. Through this text, Trailblazers explored identity mapping, racial violence, and developed a deeper understanding of our nation's dark history of chattel slavery through heart-felt courageous conversations.

In our summer programming, Trailblazers stretched their thinking and celebrated their own backgrounds and cultures.



AN UNPRECEDENTED YEAR: TRANSITION TO VIRTUAL LEARNING

As you all may know, we started off the 2019-2020 school year in 3 schools. Due to shifts in our partnerships and COVID 19, we have transitioned to a complete virtual learning platform!

2020 has been hard on us all. We haven't been able to connect with people the way that we're used to, but that hasn't stopped the BRAVE Team! Now, more than ever, it's been essential for BRAVE Staff to connect and build rapport with Trailblazers and families. By launching the Trailblazers Wraparound Program, we are able to do just that!!!

We have been able to connect in the following ways:

- Monthly Parent Workshops
- Bi-Monthly Family Nights
- Tele-health Check Ins
- Adjusting our scope of work
- Sending weekly resources
- Transitioning to Virtual Learning

"I just love how you guys are always creative and engaging – even on a zoom :)."

~ANONYMOUS
FRIENDSGIVING SURVEY

"I was motivated to begin a healthier life style."

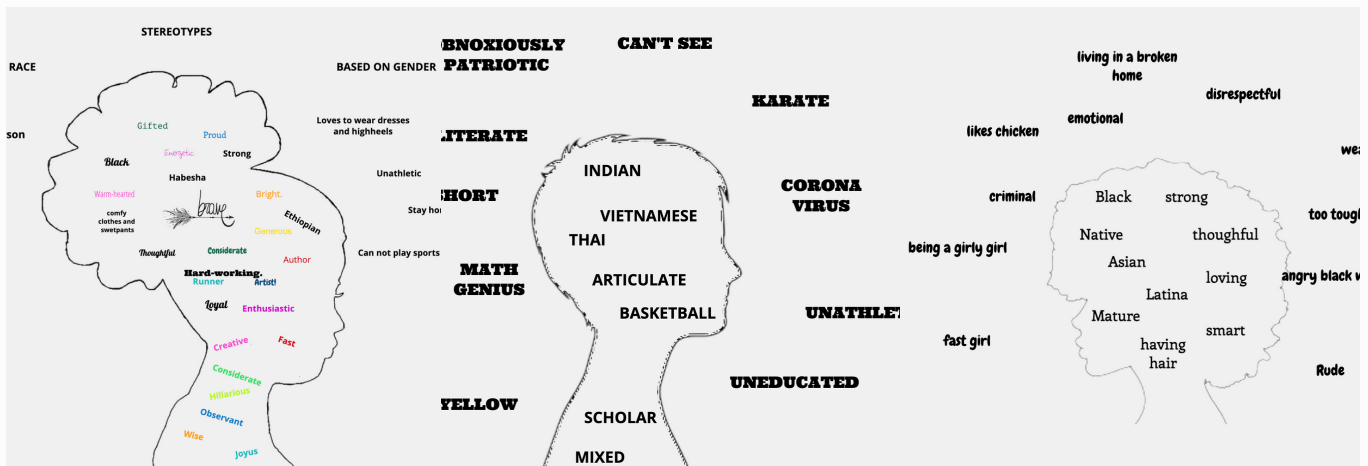
~ANONYMOUS
SELF-CARE/NUTRITION
WORKSHOP SURVEY

"My biggest take away is not to go in (to advocate) alone because there is help out there for you. Thank you so much for hosting this. I was literally in tears... everyone told me that I am not alone and that there is a village."

~ANONYMOUS
PARENT ADVOCACY WORKSHOP SURVEY

Wow

Trailblazers are now serving 60 families!



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT UNIT WRAP UP

As we wrap out this calendar year, we will be finishing our focus on Personal Development! Students have explored their identities, values, personal brands and much more throughout our time together. We have gotten to know each other but most importantly, ourselves.

Silhouette Project:

Trailblazer students explored themselves and identified the many pieces that make them who they are, from race and gender, to hobbies and their personality traits. They then identified stereotypes that correspond with different elements of their identity. Students share what stereotypes they've heard and challenged.

Now that we've gotten well into our Personal Development unit, students will begin exploring how social injustice plays a role in their lives and the lives of people that identify similarly. Moving into the New Year, we will also begin our Social Justice unit. Throughout our Social Justice unit, Trailblazer students will need adults that they can have courageous conversations with as we tackle some harsh realities. We'll be talking more about this in Parent Workshops and/or "town hall" meetings.

We continue to look forward to how you show up for our young Trailblazers.

"We are ultimately able to change ourselves and improve ourselves unlike any other form of life because of the accumulated and transmitted knowledge of who we are and how we function."

KNOW THYSELF
BY
NA'IM AKBAR

