KINDNESS IS CONTAGIOUS!!

When Civic Center Secondary opens again after the sheltering in place is lifted, we will have a school wide celebration of some of our students who have been essential workers during Covid-19. These teens have worked in grocery stores, delivery service & restaurants preparing food. They will be recognized with a big “thank you” and a certificate.

This will be the beginning of our “Kindness IS Contagious” program that will last all year.

Our world needs global citizens and changemakers who are capable of confronting complex, interconnected challenges like the one we’re facing with Covid-19. Our teens must learn to be adaptable and comfortable with complexity, to think critically and have empathy for others.

Our students face many challenges every day.  They come to school because of the safe relationships they have with our staff.  We are striving to provide a safe, welcoming school where we greet each student with “I am not successful until you are successful.” We support student growth with “critical thinking skills, empathy and tolerance, civic responsibility, and the belief they can make a difference in the world.”  We believe that every student at Civic Center is valuable & CAN make a difference in the world.

Civic Center Secondary serves students in grades 7 through 12 and is located one block from the city hall. Students live in many areas of the city, many in foster care or group homes. 100% are free lunch. For these at-risk students with habitual truancy, behavior issues, and histories of suspension and expulsion, the goal is to change behavior so that these students will stay in school and earn enough credits to graduate.

Each class will develop a Kindness display. Students can use the mini printers to print photos from their phones: self-portraits, examples of kindness activities & examples of kind, positive scenes in our school garden & nature. Each student will use journals to write short descriptions of kindness activities, kindness quotes & original kindness poems.

Classrooms can select kindness examples to display in the main hall. Besides journals & class discussions, they can also participate in Random Acts of Kindness Week in February, Students ReBuild projects exploring & supporting global issues & Sandy Hook Promise programs.

Students can also write thank you notes to a variety of community helpers & programs. Since our school is only one block from City Hall, teens can hand deliver thank you notes to our amazing Mayor London Breed.

Each semester, students will meet during class & review the acts of kindness they have initiated & experienced. Each student will get a $10 gift card as a thank you for participating in the Kindness IS Contagious activities.

Most of our students come to school hungry. We have school wide breakfast every Friday & on the last Friday of the month we have a community lunch. We are budgeting for healthy snacks for each class. These snacks can be available during Kindness journal time. Our teens enjoy cooking & have interviewed family, group home & community members about favorite recipes. During each semester students will cook a favorite food for their class & share a Kindness meal!

Kindness IS Contagious will help our teens cope with uncertainty, develop skills for resilience & realize that each one of them is important & valuable!