

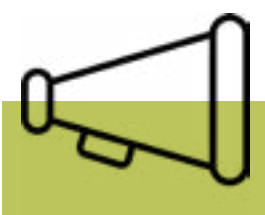


# CITY YEAR ORLANDO

## SCHOOLHOUSE NEWS, ISSUE 3

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Highlights from the Universal Orlando Foundation Team serving at Memorial Middle School



### JOYS

- We had an amazing time celebrating Black History Month
- Our team is excited to celebrate Pi Day with our students next month!
- We are thrilled to be starting tutoring with our students on Saturdays



### STARFISH STORY – A STORY OF STUDENT IMPACT

BY WHITNEY WILLIAMS



I met Anita the first day of school in my 6th period class acting goofy with her friends. She was cracking jokes, not paying attention and testing boundaries. As COVID changed the environment of the classroom, less students started coming in face-to-face, and soon it was only Anita in the class. This gave us the opportunity to get to know each other and she started coming to me for advice outside of class work. I began to realize that

underneath her smart comebacks was a very sensitive young girl. We started having leadership interventions and was honest about my observations of her behavior in class. We set a goal for her to work on her confidence and controlling her reactions. We decided that she would work on not taking everything someone said to heart, but rather she would listen and take a breath before responding. Weeks later, Anita told me that she has been “manifesting” a new attitude. She has really put in the effort to become self-aware and truly changed her behavior in class and toward other students. I am so proud of the person she is becoming and how she is continuing to find her own ways to grow. \*=Student Pseudonym



### AMERICORPS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Keely Ricketts is a proud team member serving at Memorial Middle School. She is from Davie, FL and graduated from the University of South Florida where she studied Public Health. Keely is passionate about building resilient communities and serving others. She loves being an AmeriCorps member because it gives her the opportunity to work with students and help inspire them to chase after their dreams. In her free time, Keely enjoys being outdoors, traveling and making memories with her family and friends. After service, she plans to pursue a career as an

Epidemiologist where she would travel the world to serve communities in need and focus on creating resilient communities through addressing health, education and food security.



### THE TEAM

- |                  |                 |              |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Whitney Williams | Seanella Isaacs | Kat Matthews |
| Alberto Partida  | Keely Ricketts  | Lina Vargas  |

### UPCOMING DATES

#### APRIL

- Pi Day
- Memorial for Students

#### MAY

- Staff Appreciation



City Year Orlando is a proud partner of Orange County Public Schools and Volunteer Florida. This program is funded in part by Orange County, Florida.