

Cultured Kids boosts students' motivation at Shrevewood.

How an innovative curriculum enhanced students' sense of belonging at school.



Shrevewood Elementary School

- Home of the wise owls at Falls Church, VA
- Serving 773 students - grades preschool & K-6
- Vision "Building relationships to empower our diverse school community."



Ashley Mangan, School Counselor

"I'm very thankful of the work Cultured Kids did. They helped reach more students in a meaningful way and gave them individualized attention... I really think having that extra support was impactful."

Challenge

A high student turnover was affecting friendships and motivation.

Shrevewood hosts a large, diverse community that celebrates students' individuality through various events, but was challenged with high mobility. Throughout the school year, **students struggled to keep friendships** when familiar faces left, while joining students strived to fit in.

Without their meaningful relationships, some children **lost their motivation** and excitement about school. For others, it **undermined their behavior** and **academic results**.

Ashley Mangan was passionate about her role as a school counselor. But, with many socioemotional needs at Shrevewood, she was overstretched in her role with individual sessions, crisis management, groups, and teaching guidance lessons. While some students could use extra support, others needed a program unlike what conventional school counseling provided.

Ms. Mangan knew something had to change. She had high hopes when she discovered the school administration was introducing a specialized after-school program to assist the counseling department.



Some of these students didn't have access to extracurriculars, so this was just the best opportunity... It's at school, it's easy for their parents to pick them up, and it gave them that extra outlet with a sense of connection..."

- Ashley Mangan, School Counselor

Solution

An impactful extracurricular program with individualized attention

- A small group setting for 12 weeks.

Gladly, the school counselor and teachers picked students who needed extra support from 4th, 5th and 6th grades. The children received a personal invitation to join the Art & Storytelling Book Club and met once a week for 12 weeks. As the weeks unfolded, Ms. Mangan noted how *"they were enthusiastic on book club days,"* and shared with her their pride in being part of it.

- Individualized attention.

Ms. Mangan noted, *"it was just cool to see the progress!"*. Cultured Kids gave the students the personal attention they needed within the small group setting. They could learn about their strengths in an inclusive, fun environment. And they created friendships beyond their own classrooms.

“ The book club helped the students build connections in a fun, impactful way, and got them all motivated to come to school. I remember just how excited they would be on book club days...

- Ashley Mangan, School Counselor

Results

A strong sense of pride, community and belonging, and an increase in student motivation.

The Art & Storytelling Book Club **helped** the participating **students** to:

- Feel more **motivated** to be in school.
- Develop a higher **sense of acceptance** within their school → An increase of 18% since the start of the program.
- Create new lasting **friendships** beyond the program
- Develop a **sense of community** at Shreveewood.
- Boost their **confidence** in being **themselves** at school → An increase of 11%.
- Feel **excited** and **proud** to be part of a special program.



“ Michelle really cares about the program and the kids. She was very consistent and went above and beyond just making sure the kids were okay. She was very involved and present...”

- Ashley Mangan, School Counselor



Looking to build a more unified and collaborative community in your school through embracing cultural differences?

Contact - Michelle@culturedkids.org