



# FREE LUNCH ACADEMY

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## **MEDIA KIT**

# **2020**

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**Calvin King** – *Executive Director*  
Free Lunch Academy

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## **ORGANIZATIONAL SUMMARY**

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Free Lunch Academy (FLA) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization based in Chicago with a mission to provide all students with inclusive learning environments in which they are safe, valued and protected at all times. FLA was founded in October 2012 by Executive Director, Calvin King, who sought to provide students with the necessary tools to safely mediate the occurrence of violence and bullying that is too often experienced in today's classrooms. King, a father of two, is passionate about promoting inclusive learning environments for children worldwide through the use of artistic expression. FLA reaches this objective by partnering with school communities throughout the Chicagoland area and beyond to provide students with the one-of-a-kind stage play experience known as, "Be A Buddy Not A Bully," and appropriate follow up workshops, programs and both personal and professional development services.

FLA offers dynamic educational entertainment services to schools, churches, libraries, park districts, community organizations and more. All services provide a specific focus on bullying awareness, prevention and intervention, which are supported by a proven curriculum designed to empower students, educators and parents on the topic. Bullying has become a major issue within the United States and FLA strives to interrupt these trends by "edutaining" various communities towards positive solutions. The U.S. Department of Justice released data stating more than 160,000 kids stay home from school each day to avoid being bullied. Equally noteworthy, bullying is known to stop within 10 seconds, 57% of the time when bystanders intervene. These statistics demonstrate that a comprehensive program, such as FLA, is necessary in today's society. Together we can take back our classrooms.

# PROGRAMS & SERVICES



## Be A Buddy Not A Bully (Stage Play)

"Be A Buddy Not A Bully" (BABNAB), is a multi-media stage performance centered on anti-bullying techniques and aimed at inspiring today's youth to become up-standers instead of bystanders. "BABNAB" takes a refreshing interactive approach to focusing on the coming-of-age issues experienced by most students attempting to balance the pressures of school, home and social life, while on a rollercoaster ride of self discovery. "BABNAB" is a must see for any student - be it a bully, a victim, or the all too common bystander.

*Free Lunch Academy "Be A Buddy Not A Bully"  
Showcase - Vanderpoel Elementary*

**More than 50,000 students served.**



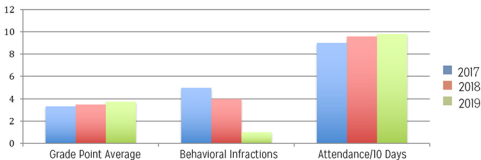
■ Prek-2nd  
■ 3rd-5th  
■ 6th-8th  
■ High School

**Students Served by Grade Levels**

## Quite The Character (Workshop Series)

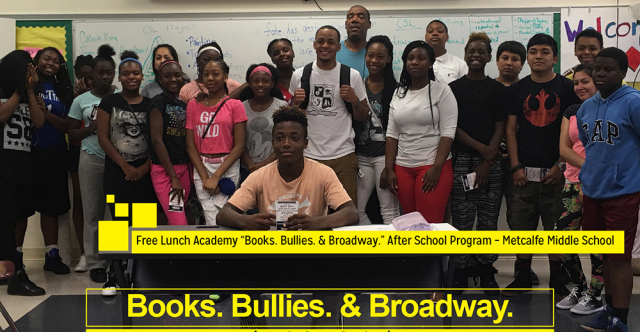
Following (or preceding) a performance of, "BABNAB," schools can take advantage of follow up workshops entitled, "Quite The Character." During this customizable workshop series, which takes place during designated school hours, students learn about conflict resolution, character development, restorative justice practices and more. Students who complete the program earn the title "FLA Ambassador."

*Free Lunch Academy "Quite The Character" Be A Buddy Commitment Boards - Coles Elementary*



**(QTC Program Participants' Grades, Behavior & Attendance)**





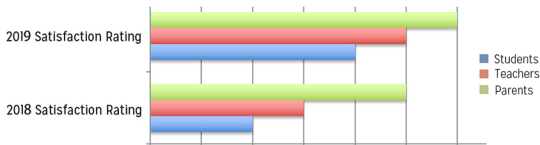
Free Lunch Academy "Books, Bullies, & Broadway." After School Program - Metcalfe Middle School

## Books. Bullies. & Broadway.

*(Workshop Series)*

Books, Bullies, & Broadway (3Bs) is a one of a kind after school experience that provides supplemental academic support as well as social emotional learning opportunities through artistic expression. Most importantly, 3Bs also empowers students to become the star of the show by creating original stories of personal trials and triumphs as it relates to conflict resolution from their point of view. Through literacy enrichment, script writing basics, and pub-

lic speaking exposure, participants gain experience through the art of story telling and stage play production. Students involved in the 3Bs program can expect to see gains in self-esteem and leadership capabilities. Additionally, an increased ability to demonstrate mutual respect, conflict resolution skills and more purpose driven decision-making is an expected result from participation in the 3Bs program.





## Parental Advisory/Recess (Personal/Professional Development)

FLA offers a performance infused personal/professional development experience aimed at increasing parents' and/or educators' ability to identify, intervene and ultimately prevent when bullying related incidents occur among their youth. The goal of these workshops are to ensure students, parents and educators are all speaking the same language in regards to bullying related issues within school communities and throughout our respective households.

*Free Lunch Academy "Parental Advisory" for the staff of Chicago Park District - Spring 2017*



- Mini Lesson
- Strategies & Tactics
- Kinesthetic Connectinos
- Reflection

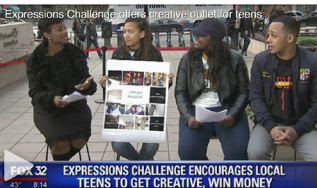
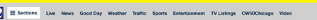
**Presentation Format**

# MEDIA COVERAGE




FLA appears on WCIU's "You & Me This Morning" on January 11, 2015 to discuss the importance of supporting programs that focus on students' social emotional learning thru the arts.

FLA was highlighted on CBS 2 Chicago's 6 a.m. news segment on November 11, 2015 to discuss their No. 1 student acclaimed stage play, "Be A Buddy Not A Bully".



FLA Ambassadors appeared on FOX News on November 15, 2016, to talk about The Walgreens Expressions Challenge and the importance of teen expression through creative means.

# SPECIALTY EVENTS & MORE



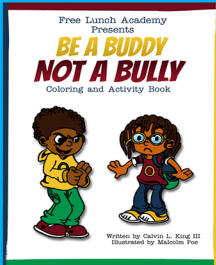
FLA Youth Summit & Talent Showcase 2019 – National Teachers Academy

## Back 2 School Youth Summit & Talent Showcase

One of FLA's the most celebrated annual events is the Back to School Youth Summit & Talent Showcase. This event is a unique day full of enrichment, entertainment, and exploration. From panel discussions with dynamic professionals, to a student lead talent showcase, to

lunch and learn workshops, just to name a few, this event is everything our community needs to get excited to about making the upcoming school year the best the city have ever seen.

# MERCHANDISE & APPAREL



## Be A Buddy Not A Bully Coloring & Activity Book - *Colorful Conversations*

“Colorful Conversations” is an in-classroom experience specifically tailored for primary grade level students (PreK – 3rd) that helps learners explore their feelings, the feelings of others and connections between the two.

By leveraging the “Be A Buddy Not A Bully,” Coloring & Activity Book, students become empowered to develop emotional intelligence through literacy, coloring and candid conversation while cultivating their artist within.

## FREE LUNCH ACADEMY APPAREL



Available Exclusively at [www.freelunchacademy.com](http://www.freelunchacademy.com)

# A CELEBRATION of The Greatest Teacher



*Free Lunch Academy "A Celebration of The  
Greatest Teacher," Fall 2018*

FLA prides itself in providing high quality educational entertainment services to school communities throughout the Chicagoland area and beyond. Our portfolio offerings aims to serve as a complement to the amazing work our educators provide our young people year round, both inside and outside of the classroom. In honor of said educators that consistently go above and beyond the call of duty, FLA presents, "A Celebration of The Greatest Teacher," each semester throughout the school year. These celebrations are in efforts to give back to the teachers that give so much to our children.

# WORKFORCE & TALENT DEVELOPMENT



## *Free Lunch Academy | One Summer Chicago Summer 2019*

Free Lunch Academy offers innovative, non-discriminatory, industry neutral workforce programming services for youth, young adults and businesses that truly value creativity. Through educational training, internships and mentoring, Free Lunch Academy combines emerging industry best practices, subject matter expertise and real-world applications within the creative economy and far beyond. By successfully partnering with the City of Chicago, Illinois' Department of Human Services (DHS) and countless community-based organizations, FLA has been able to provide hundreds of at-risk youth and young adults with the necessary job, career and entrepreneurial skills and training needed for success tomorrow, today. These services are intentionally centered on ethics, character leadership, communication and professionalism in efforts to develop truly well-rounded candidates for employment as a result of programming efforts. Through this innovative approach to matching the demands of the workforce with the city's diverse supply of talent, Free Lunch Academy has established a high functioning network of employees, employers and emerging entrepreneurs that possess a healthy blend of morals, ethics and drive towards short and long-term economic goals.

# THE ASK



In order to provide the most unforgettable experience possible each year, support from the community, businesses, organizations and the like is needed. We are in need of additional volunteers, in-kind donations as well as financial support in order to ensure our youth summits, showcases and programs continue to realize their true potential going forward.

With the involvement, support and partnership of like-minded individuals, businesses and organizations, the FLA movement has the potential to become epic in years to come. This is only possible with your support. If you or your organization would like to partner we would love to hear from you. Additionally, if you have any questions or concerns, please utilize the contact information below as well.

Regards,

**CALVIN KING**

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