

# Sparking Interest in Student Leadership: Implementation of B.I.O.N.I.C. in Grades 6-8

Kelly Chaney, MA, PEL: School Counseling, Doctoral Candidate

Mildred I. Lavizzo Elementary School

Katherine M. Wix, PhD, LPC, NCC, ACS, PEL: School Counseling

Governors State University

# What is Believe It Or Not I Care (B.I.O.N.I.C.)?

- Dr. Heidi Larson -Eastern Illinois University
- Sandy Austin-A school counselor from Colorado; creator of B.I.O.N.I.C
- Middle school needs are different from high school.

# Mildred I. Lavizzo



- Type: Elementary School in Chicago (District 299)
- Classification: Attendance Area School
- Performance Rating: Level 1+
- Grades Served: PK-8
- Low Income - 96.9%
- Diverse Learners - 13.1%
- Limited English - 0.6%
- Two Major Issues:
- Attendance Rate within Grade 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> (86.%)
- Mobility Rate: 46%



# Needs Assessment: 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> Graders



Your school counselor, Mrs. Chaney, would like to know if students are interested in opportunities to be more involved within their school. Please answer the following questions using the scale below.

1-Strongly Disagree 2- Disagree 3- Neutral 4- Agree 5- Strongly Agree

- Select grade level:

\_\_\_\_\_ 6<sup>th</sup>  
\_\_\_\_\_ 7<sup>th</sup>  
\_\_\_\_\_ 8<sup>th</sup>

- I feel my social needs are met at school.

1 2 3 4 5

- I would like for there to be more opportunities to be involved at my school?

1 2 3 4 5

- I would participate if there were opportunities to be involved in at my school?

1 2 3 4 5

- What opportunities would you like to see implemented in your school for more student involvement?

|                          |   |   |   |   |   |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Student Council          | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Student Leadership Roles | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Student Academic Clubs   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Sports                   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

# Needs Assessment Results



- I feel my social needs are met at school (30%)
- I would like for there to be more opportunities to be involved at my school? (37%)
- I would participate if there were opportunities to be involved in at my school? (33%)
- What opportunities would you like to see implemented in your school for more student involvement?
  - Student Council 15%
  - Student Leadership Roles 45%
  - Student Academic Clubs 10%
  - Sports 30%

**B.I.O.N.I.C. was Created in Lavizzo!**



**Addresses Two Major Issues within Lavizzo:**

- The low attendance rate within Grade 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>
  - High Mobility Rate (46%)

# B.I.O.N.I.C. Leaders Recruitment



- Collaborated with 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers  
Not looking for academic leaders.
- B.I.O.N.I.C. Mentor pre-test Screening (1-Strongly Disagree 2- Disagree 3- Neutral 4- Agree 5- Strongly Agree)
  - I am comfortable with myself
  - I work well with others
  - I like to do things that make a difference
  - Do you think you will like being a student mentor? If yes, please explain why?
  - Do you think you will face any struggles being a student mentor? If yes, please explain why?

# B.I.O.N.I.C. Leaders Recruitment



- B.I.O.N.I.C. Mentee pre-test Screening (1-Strongly Disagree 2- Disagree 3- Neutral 4- Agree 5- Strongly Agree)
  - I struggle with being the new kid?
  - I am happy to be at my school?
  - I feel safe at my school?
  - Do you think you will like having a student mentor? If yes, please explain why?
  - Do you think you will face any struggles having a student mentor? If yes, please explain why?



# B.I.O.N.I.C. Leaders



- B.I.O.N.I.C Buddy
  - Helps New students transitioning into Lavizzo
  - Gives New students a welcome kit
- B.I.O.N.I.C Monitor
  - Tracks attendance
  - Helps advocate for students who are struggling in areas that affect their attendance rate.

# B.I.O.N.I.C. Leaders Meetings



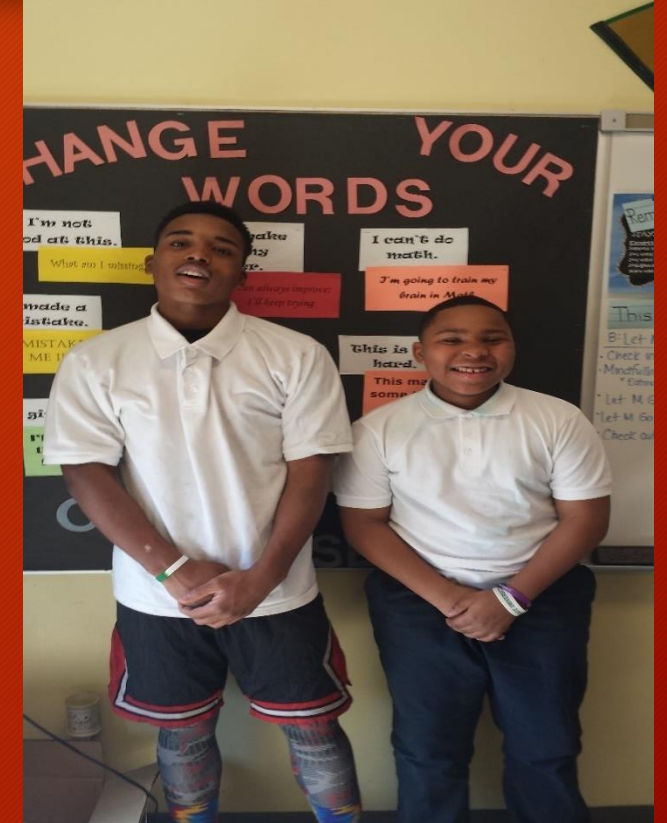
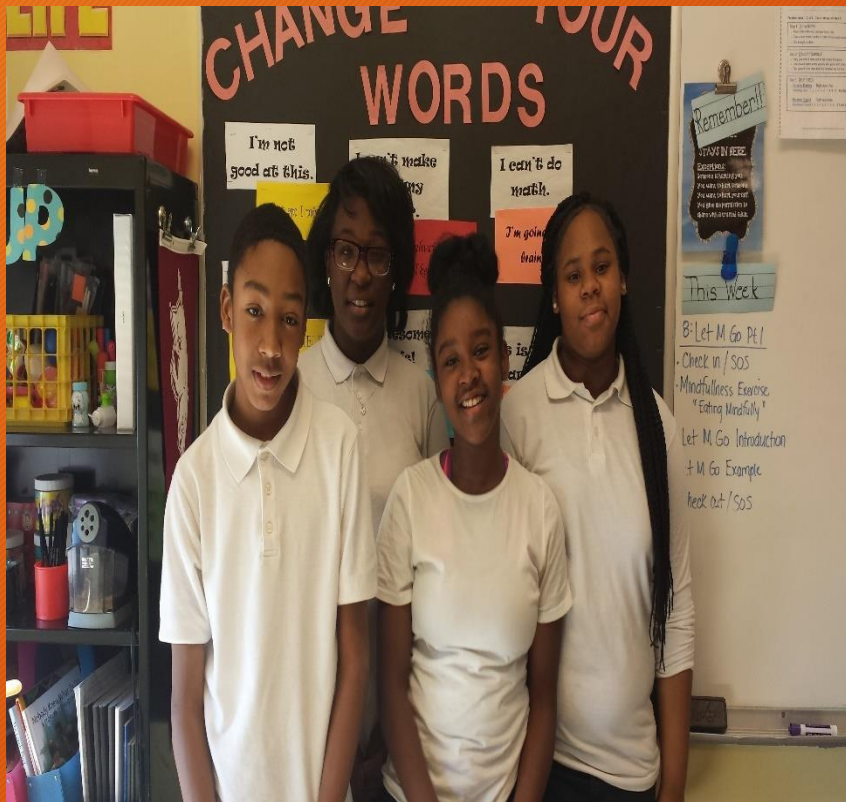
- Meet every other week
- Discuss celebrations and struggles with being a B.I.O.N.I.C leader
- B.I.O.N.I.C leaders receive strategies on how to deal with difficult situations/difficult students
- How we can improve the program for the future

# B.I.O.N.I.C. Benefits



- B.I.O.N.I.C Leaders will gain invaluable leadership and mentoring skills
- B.I.O.N.I.C Leaders will be able to recognize, plan, implement a necessary course of action and advocate for students are in need.
- B.I.O.N.I.C collaborates with administration, teacher and students.
- B.I.O.N.I.C will help decrease suspension rates, bullying, and other negative behaviors within grades 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>.
- B.I.O.N.I.C will also help increase the attendance rates within grades 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>.

# B.I.O.N.I.C. Leaders



Lavizzo Elementary where Lynx Lead!

# B.I.O.N.I.C. Leaders Speak Out



# Celebrations & Limitations



- Chicago Public School district expected attendance rate is 97%. Lavizzo's over all rate to date attendance rate is 96%. Grades 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, however, was 86% and is currently to-date 90%. That is a 4% increase.
- B.I.O.N.I.C will not change Lavizzo's mobility rate, however, it has touched students who felt untouched and unnoticed.
- B.I.O.N.I.C is nourishing future leaders
- Started B.I.O.N.I.C. second semester vs. first semester
- Funding
- Post-screens will not be given until the end of the year, therefore, final data results will not be available until then.

Questions??



**Lavizzo  
Elementary  
where Lynx  
Lead!**



# Contact Information

Kelly Chaney, MA, PEL: School Counseling, Doctoral Candidate

Mildred I. Lavizzo Elementary School

[Kachaney1@cps.edu](mailto:Kachaney1@cps.edu)

(773) 535-5312

Katherine M. Wix, PhD, LPC, NCC, ACS, PEL: School Counseling

Governors State University

[Kwix@govst.edu](mailto:Kwix@govst.edu)