

# **Proposal to Establish African American Culture Club**

(Name of Club)

Submitted by Jordana Simmons and Students: Ny'Asia Bussie, Lauryn Dority, and Zaria Williams

**Advisor(s) Jordana Simmons and Kristy Johnston**

**Justification:** Students from the newly established African American Literature course have expressed a desire to establish a club that represents all of the things that help to make their high school experience. The students put together the following as a justification for establishing the club: " Overtime, Timber Creek has experienced a shift in diversity and culture. The time is now to reform negative stereotypes and to fill the cultural void by creating a space for self expression and collaboration. Students, especially students of color, have been known participants in sports and executive committees, but it seems that participation in school clubs is not as popular. We want to create a club that will encourage students of every color to be a part of the school community. We want to promote black culture, not in an isolating way, but in a way that will uplift and celebrate diversity and create a sense of unity among the entire student body. We envision a club that focuses on community service, mentoring, and positive discussions."

## **Details:**

How often and/or when will this club meet? Meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays (twice monthly)

How many members do you estimate will participate? 25 members to start with room to grow.

Are there costs involved? **Yes** If so, how will these costs be funded? Fundraising for the first year, once established grants, fundraising, and donations.

**Please explain in detail how this will benefit the students:** The club seeks to enhance the school community by creating positive opportunities for growth, leadership, and representation. It is important to establish ways for students to contribute to the community so that they will feel a sense of ownership and pride within their school community. When I met with the students in May about their ideas for the club, they provided the following specific examples:

- Big Brother/ Big Sister with underclassmen ( maybe a focus on students that have had discipline issues or issues adjusting to high school)
- host and plan the annual Black History Assembly
- hold discussions about current issues that affect today's student ( social, dating, school, community) - one meeting per month will be designated as discussion meeting to facilitate productive round table discussions about these issues.
- Explore ways to increase representation within school community
- student officers/ leadership ( grade and behavior criteria for leadership positions)
- t-shirts- (as fund raisers and to identify members and as publicity for the club)

In addition to these ideas, they created this schedule of community service and activities:

- Nov- Thanksgiving/ turkey drive ( collaborate with world of difference)
- Dec- Angel Tree- Club members team up to buy gifts for families
- Jan- MLK day of service - collaborate with Interact
- March- Women's History month - Collaborate with SPEAK and History department for assembly
- April- March of Dimes- ( form a team and raise money at the walk at Rowan University)
- May- Tribute to mothers- donate to shelter for women -Collaborate with LADIES
- June- Life after High School Panel discussion ( Young professionals come to answer questions about establishing a plan, setting goals, and preparing for the real world)