Theft & Stealing

Greater Brunswick Charter School: Youth in Action
We are the Youth in Action of Greater Brunswick Charter School
Community Brainstorm:

What Community should we research?

What is our Community?

- United States
- New Jersey
- Youth in Action
- New Brunswick
- Rutgers
- People united behind a cause
- Where we live: neighborhood, street
- Where we work
- Family
- Where we go to school (GBCS)
Our Community: GBCS

- GBCS:
  - New Brunswick, New Jersey
  - Kindergarten through 8th grade
  - "Strengths" and "Things We'd Like to Change"

### GBCS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengths</th>
<th>Things we'd like to improve or change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nice teachers</td>
<td>more energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>make learning fun</td>
<td>Sleepy students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>connect w/ topic</td>
<td>Laptops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>playground</td>
<td>more money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>art room</td>
<td>field trips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fun/nice environment</td>
<td>more materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>computers</td>
<td>more money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>friends/friendly</td>
<td>more materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>respectful</td>
<td>more money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- good rulers</td>
<td>more money</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our "Issue"

• What does Theft & Stealing mean

• How we selected our issue

• Why we chose this issue
Discussing our Research Topic
Our Method

- Came up with questions
- Created survey (students and teachers)
- Interviewed administrators and teachers
- Sorted the data
- Coded the open ended questions
- Created charts to represent our data
- Took pictures
- We created our presentation
We had so many questions!
Theft / Stealing

- who is stealing?
- why are they stealing?
  - lack of money/resources
  - jealousy
  - lack of respect
- do others make people steal?
- what has been stolen?
- who has been a victim of theft?
- how do people feel when they have something stolen from them?
Questions for Specific Populations at GBCS

Students who have been stolen from

- How many times have you been stolen from?
- What item/s have been stolen?
- How do you feel when you know something stolen? (explain)
- How can we fix the problem so that it doesn’t happen?
- Do you think lockers would solve the problem of theft in our school?

Students who have witnessed stealing

- Have you ever seen someone stealing?
- What was stolen from the classroom?
- What were they wearing?
- What did they look like? (height, weight, etc.)

Teachers

- How do you feel when people steal?
- Have anything ever been stolen in school?
- What do you do when you find someone stealing?
- What counts as proof that someone is stealing?
- Have you ever seen someone stealing?

Principals/ Administrators

1. Have you gotten complaints about stealing?
2. How many complaints?
3. How many thefts?
4. Have you seen anything suspicious?
5. What grade have you gotten the most complaints from?
6. Why are people stealing?

Do you know what happens to people that steal?
- What happens to them?
- How do you get mad if someone told you they stole something?
- Do you know what was stolen?
- What was it?
Our Method

• **WHY** we choose to gather it that way
  o **Surveys**: Easiest way to get to most people
  o **Interviews**: One on one answers; talk to people to get full reactions
  o **Picture & Video**: To document our work and to show our problem
  o **Cafeteria Poll**: "Do you think stealing is a problem at GBCS?"
    ▪ To see how our school feels about stealing
The Cafeteria Poll
The Surveys

**Student Survey**

Your fellow students are researching issues that affect your GBCCS community. All answers are private and we will not ask for your name. Please answer as honestly as possible.

***Your answers will NOT get you in trouble***

What grade are you in? Pick one

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6
- ☐ 7
- ☐ 8

Have you even been stolen from at GBCCS? Pick one

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, how many times have you been stolen from at GBCCS? Pick one

- ☐ 1-2 times
- ☐ 3-4 times
- ☐ More than 4 times

What items have been stolen from you? Check all that apply.

- ☐ money
- ☐ electronics
- ☐ clothes/jewelry
- ☐ food
- ☐ school supplies

How do you feel when you have something stolen from you?

1 2 3 4 5

Very upset ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Don’t care

How do you think we can fix the problem of theft and stealing at GBCCS?

Have you ever stolen anything at GBCCS? Pick one

(We don't know your name, so you won't get in trouble. Please be honest.)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, what have you stolen? check all that apply

- ☐ money
- ☐ electronics
- ☐ clothes/jewelry
- ☐ food
- ☐ school supplies

**Teacher Survey**

A group of your GBCCS students are researching issues that affect the school community. Your answers will be anonymous and we will not ask for your name. Please answer as honestly as possible.

Have you ever had something stolen from your classroom?

- ☐ yes
- ☐ no

- ☐ If yes, what was stolen? (choose all that apply)
  - money
  - electronics
  - clothes/jewelry/accessories
  - food
  - school supplies
  - toys

On a scale from 1-5, how do you feel when you have something stolen from you?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Don’t Care</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>Very Upset</th>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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Have you ever witnessed someone steal from your classroom or anywhere in the school?

- ☐ yes
- ☐ no

Is there a punishment/consequence when you catch someone stealing from your or someone in the school?

- ☐ yes
- ☐ no

- If yes, what is the punishment/consequence?

- What counts as proof that someone is stealing?
Tallying the Results!

![Image of students working on tasks]

![Image of a student holding a paper]

![Image of a student writing on a sheet of paper]

![Image of students in a classroom]

![Image of a student smiling]

![Image of a student with a pencil]

![Image of a student holding a paper]

![Image of a student writing on a sheet of paper]

![Image of students in a classroom]

![Image of a student with a pencil]

![Image of a student holding a paper]

![Image of a student writing on a sheet of paper]

![Image of students in a classroom]
Our Findings:

- Students who have been stolen from:
  - There were more students that were stolen from than not
    - But it was close
      - 95 said they were stolen from
      - 88 said nothing was stolen
Our Findings

Things most often stolen:

- 1st - School Supplies
- 2nd - Money
- 3rd - Clothes
Our Findings

"Have you ever stolen at GBCS?"

- 36 students have stolen at GBCS
- 139 students have NOT stolen at GBCS

This means that most students at GBCS do not steal
Our Findings: Students who Steal

"What did you steal?"

- Money - 9 students
- Electronics - 5 students
- Clothing - 6 students
- School Supplies - 23
- Toys - 9 students
Our Findings: Reasons for Stealing

Students stole because:
• 17 needed what they stole
• 13 liked what they stole
• 10 were angry at who they stole from
• 8 were told to steal
Teacher Survey

- Most teachers really care about stealing.
- 10 out of 16 have seen a student steal at GBCS.
- All teachers think there should be a consequence for stealing.
  - Most think that suspension is the best punishment.
What can be done to end stealing?
Our Conclusions

• Stealing is a problem at GBCS
  o More 5th and 6th graders have been stolen from than in other grades
  o Most people have been stolen from 1-2 times

• It occurs more in the Afternoon
  o Especially in 5th, 6th, and 8th grade

• Money and School Supplies are stolen most

• People stole because they needed or liked what they stole
Our Solutions

How can GBCS solve this stealing issue?

![Bar chart showing suggestions to fix stealing]
Our Solutions: By Theme

• Punishment & Consequences:
  o "I think we should have a rule about no stealing"
  o "People who steal should get detention"

• School Security:
  o "We should get classroom cameras."
  o "We should have lockers."
  o "People should be in the halls to watch."
  o "Lockers to keep our stuff safe."
Our Solutions: By Theme

• Hopelessness:
  o "We can't fix it."

• Personal Responsibility:
  o "If you bring stuff to school you should keep it with you."
  o "People should care more."

• School Wide Support:
  o "We should have an assembly to talk about stealing."
Our Solutions

We would recommend:

- LOCKERS
  - They fit under the most popular theme suggested (School Security)
  - A lot of our GBCS community suggested this too
  - We can decorate them and make it personal
  - No one knows the combination but us (and a teacher)
All this research and data...

But we had fun too!

Some highlights of our *Youth in Action* Sessions...
THANK YOU!

GBCS is the Best!!!!! =)