

### I am Passionate About...

I am passionate about freedom for all Black people and preserving our culture. I want to show our children something other than the “black stereotypes” we are surrounded by in society. I want them to believe that Black isn’t monolithic. I am also passionate about taking ownership of our own Black communities. I personally believe there should be a Back to Black movement given our time in history. Too many of us are complacent as our rights are taken away; it’s time for a civil right movement. I know that Black people want to be treated equally and judged on our character not skin color. Specifically, I have a thought process around Black girls not being the ‘mules of the world’. I don’t believe they should be the ones to hold everyone else’s burdens – including the Black mans’. In the same breathe I believe Black boys are the key factor in liberating our people. We have to teach our boys how to take care and protect their women and babies. We have to teach both to protect our communities, again. This is the only way we will obtain liberation.

### I believe...

I believe there are a lot of good people in the world. Even though there are so many differences we all bleed red – we are all human beings that are worthy. I think people can do whatever they want if they have the right mindsets and tools. For people of color specifically I believe that you need community to succeed in your dreams. Our students have to learn how to navigate a system that was not set up for them. That means thinking creatively about how to start their own businesses and gain economics. What’s true for my students now is that they have big dreams and want a lot from life, but they don’t know how to obtain it. They in many ways have an innocence that needs to be molded in order for survival. They also see a lot more than people give them credit for. For example, they know the people in their communities that their gives their money too on a daily basis don’t look like them or speak their language. They are aware that something is unfair.

### This reality & my class...

What’s wrong with this reality is that they are ignorant to what causes the feelings of injustice that they have on a daily basis. What must be true for them is that they learn about the injustices of this world, learn how important their solutions crucial to shaping the world, & more importantly grow a strong pride in our own communities. They need to understand how economics works in regards to their communities. My content will allow them to learn about the world and the many people we call ‘heroes’ within it who brought vision to their communities. My content will help my students use those examples to produce solutions for their own communities. They will learn that our ‘heroes’ are actually ordinary people like them.

### What do I bring...

I bring a love of Black people, open-mindedness, education, and children to my classroom. I have always tried to figure out things that were going on in communities and solutions to those issues. I come from the mindset of thinking education equals freedom (in many ways) for our students. I come from a social work background and I am about the development of the child holistically. I believe as a community we should be taking care of every student basic needs (Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs) before we push academics on a child. For example, if they lose someone important in their lives, it should not be ‘business as usual’. We should help them navigate it and not pretend it doesn’t exist. I bring my caring heart to students. I think about my students all the time. I think about the relationships they form, their body movements, the way they interact with each other. I want to make sure that tribulations outside of education are taken care of before I push curriculum.

### Academic Growth

- 2.5 years reading + writing growth
- 3 or higher on AP rubric to prepare for AP US History

### Pathways

- ✓ **G.P.A.:** 3.0 or higher

- ✓ **ACT:** 22 or higher
- ✓ **AP:** 3
- ✓ **Mentorship/Programs:** As an Upward Bound alum and former Breakthrough collaborative partner, I know the value of informal education that bridges the gap. Mentors are important and can make such a difference in children's lives. I still talk to my mentors and ask them for advice. Students will understand that college is one of the pathways to success. I also believe that connections to others that already do what my kids' currently desire are important. My hope is to aid in making those connections happen for my students.

### Our bar will be...

- 1.) My students will attain tiered reading growth 2.5 years.
- 2.) I want my children to conquer ACE, DBQ, and AP rubric.
- 3.) They will have mastered writing assertions, summarizing, and using evidence.
- 4.) I want my children to read 7 different excerpts, articles, and/or speeches a week.
- 5.) I want my students to believe in Black love, solidarity amongst oppress people, and community protection.

### Our mindset needs to be...

My students should have a **growth mindset** similar to that of Malcolm X. They need to understand that failure is not final, but feedback. Students also need to strive for **excellence** and **pride** in everything they do. They also need to understand that **"black" is not monolithic or a stereotype**. My kids also need to be **proactive** and take control of their education.

### Our values are...

**Zest:** Positivity and pride in themselves and education

**Leader:** Marcus Garvey -- **Marcus Mosiah Garvey, Jr.**, ONH (17 August 1887 – 10 June 1940), was a Jamaican political leader, publisher, journalist, entrepreneur, and orator who was a staunch proponent of the Black nationalism and Pan-Africanism movements. He founded the Black Star Line, part of the Back-to-Africa movement, which promoted the return of the African diaspora to their ancestral lands.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-XjloOKI60>



**Growth Mindset:** Failure is not final, but feedback.

**Leader:** Malcolm X, El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz -- May 19, 1925 – February 21, 1965), born **Malcolm Little** and also known as **El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz** (Arabic: زابشلال كلالام الحاج), was an African-American Muslim minister and human rights activist. To his admirers he was a courageous advocate for the rights of blacks, a man who indicted white America in the harshest terms for its crimes against black Americans; detractors accused him of preaching racism and violence. He has been called one of the greatest and most influential African Americans in history. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9a3hT8f6Kkk>



**Excellence:** Always going for the best in everything that we do

**Leader: Tupac Shakur** -- Tupac Amaru Shakur (June 16, 1971 – September 13, 1996), also known by his stage names 2Pac and briefly as Makaveli, was an American rapper and actor. Shakur has sold over 75 million albums worldwide as of 2010, making him one of the best-selling music artists in the world. MTV ranked him at number two on their list of The Greatest MCs of All Time and Rolling Stone named him the 86th Greatest Artist of All Time. His double disc album All Eyez on Me is one of the best-selling hip hop albums of all time.  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EVeyJk-K6As>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rrL3HmGdAZE>



**Respect:** To treat others as I would want them to treat me, to value the worth of every person, including myself.

**Leader: Black Panther Party** -- In October of 1966, in Oakland California, Huey Newton (from Louisiana) and Bobby Seale founded the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense. The Panthers practiced militant self-defense of minority communities against the U.S. government, and fought to establish revolutionary socialism through mass organizing and community based programs. The party was one of the first organizations in U.S. history to militantly struggle for ethnic minority and working class emancipation — **a party whose agenda was the revolutionary establishment of real economic, social, and political equality across gender and color lines.** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mLzIsJqxC5I>



**Responsibility:** To do what is right—what I ought to do, to be accountable for my choices of behavior and actions and my promises.

**Leader: Harriet Tubman** -- Harriet Tubman (born Araminta Harriet Ross; 1820 – March 10, 1913) was an African-American abolitionist, humanitarian, and Union spy during the American Civil War. Born into slavery, Tubman escaped and subsequently made more than nineteen missions to rescue more than 300 slaves using the network of antislavery activists and safe houses known as the Underground Railroad. She later helped John Brown recruit men for his raid on Harpers Ferry, and in the post-war era struggled for women's suffrage.  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XmsNGrkbHm4>

