



Jewish Federation  
OF GREATER NAPLES

THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.  
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

### "STAND UP FOR JUSTICE"

Sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council of the  
Jewish Federation of Greater Naples

(Co-Teachers)

Application deadline: February 2, 2024

Applicant's name: 1. Kelly Crews Stevenson 2. Carrey VanDyne Applicant's email: 1. StevenKe@collierschools.com 2. vandynca@collierschools.com

Number of years in education: 30+ Grade or subject taught: 12+ (transition)

School: Golden Gate High School Address: 2925 Titan Way, Naples FL 34116

Phone (daytime): 239-377-1920 Phone (evening): 239-572-6187

Principal's name: Joe Mikulski Principal's email address: @collierschools.com Principal's Phone: 239-377-1600

- Describe the precipitating events that motivated you to initiate these lessons or activities
- Describe the lessons or activities; and if adapted from another source please reference
- Explain how the lessons or activities teach students the importance of respecting others no matter what religious, racial, cultural, or other differences exist
- Explain how it helped them counter bigotry and bullying and prepared them to stand up for Justice
- PROVIDE EVIDENCE/PROOF OF EFFECTIVENESS SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO: A QUESTIONNAIRE, INTERVIEWS, DOCUMENTED ANECDOTAL CONVERSATIONS, AND STUDENT WRITINGS, VIDEO, ETC.

→All 5 bullet points must be completed or applicant will be advised to submit the following year. Please number each page along with your name at the top of each page.

Please complete the following if you have encouraged someone other than yourself to apply:

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Your email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (daytime): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (evening): \_\_\_\_\_

Your relationship to this applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Submit the completed form in writing, by email, or video format to:

Via email to: Renee at [rbialek@jewishnaples.org](mailto:rbialek@jewishnaples.org)

Or mail to

Beth Povlow, Educator Grant Coordinator, C/o JCRC, Jewish Federation of Greater Naples  
4720 Pine Ridge Rd., Naples, FL 34119

Carrey VanDyne

Kelly Crews-Stevenson

Golden Gate High

## Kindness In Aktion

### Describe the precipitating events that motivated you to initiate these lessons or activities

As teachers in a transition program for students with disabilities, we put a strong emphasis on inclusion as well as kindness toward everyone. We work at the G.A.T.E. (Greater Achievement Through Empowerment) program at Golden Gate High School where we not only teach life and social skills, but we also match interns to work sites. While at the work sites, both the interns as well the employees get to practice acceptance and inclusion on a daily basis. We also encourage high school students at our school to embrace our students and to make sure that they are included in the school community and that everyone is kind and accepting to one another. Since we are a Unified Champion School, we participated in Unity Day on Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> in which we held a school-wide event with cornhole competitions, music, games, inclusion pledges and banners. Unity Day is a day to work together against bullying by encouraging kindness, acceptance, and inclusion. We also facilitate a Spring school-wide event corresponding with "Spread the Word Inclusion" to educate others about not using derogatory language when referring to our special population. A new initiative for us this year has been to partner with our local Kiwanis Club to promote service toward others. We created our "Aktion Club" at Golden Gate High school and have also included students from Immokalee and Palmetto Ridge High Schools. We would like to participate in our first annual Aktion Club week that is encouraged by Kiwanis to promote service and kindness toward others.

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**Describe the lesson(s) or activity(s): and if adapted from another source please reference:**

Aktion Club week is celebrated the first full week of March and gives members the opportunity to show their community what Aktion Club is truly about: service. It is a week in which every day has a special theme for clubs to follow. Suggestions were provided to us on the Kiwanis Aktion Club website page. After reading over the suggestions, we discussed specific activities to plan at our school. On Monday, the theme is "Show your K in Every Way". We plan on purchasing Aktion Club gear such as t-shirts and pins that promote kindness awareness. We will also buy posterboard and art supplies to create kindness posters and hang them around our school. Kindness can be shown by handing out ice pops to the student body to kick off our kindness week! On Tuesday, the theme is "Kudos to Aktion." This is a day to recognize members of Aktion Club for all the work they do. Our club will be featured on the morning news to share information about our members and their accomplishments. We would also like to contact our local news outlet to showcase our special members of Aktion Club. Finally, we want to provide certificates, trophies, and prizes to members who have displayed acts of kindness throughout the school year both in class as well as at the jobsite. On Wednesday, the theme is "Dare to Care" and we are encouraged to either host a service project on a fundraiser on this day. We have chosen to partner with Naples Community Hospital at the Birth Center and provide goody bags for the newborns/new parents at the hospital. Thursday's theme is "Aktions of Kindness" in which we will spread happiness by doing little random acts of kindness. We will challenge every member to complete one act of kindness this day. We will encourage activities such as holding the door open for someone, smiling at everyone they see, leaving random sticky notes, writing thank-you notes, and providing small gift items/gift cards for office workers, assistants, cafeteria workers, and bus drivers. Friday's theme is "Connect the K's" and we want to

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celebrate the entire family of Kiwanis. We would like to partner with Key Club and host a social event where we can provide desserts and share information with one another. We can select ambassadors to go to their meetings to keep up to date with their service projects.

Provide Evidence/Proof of Effort/Results

Providing proof that respecting others is quite evident by seeing the environment here at Golden Gate High School. From the time you are greeted here, you will know that this is a special place of inclusion for all. Pictures will be provided to see the acceptance and the happiness that is felt by both students and staff.

**Explain how the lesson(s) or activity(s) teach students the importance of respecting others no matter what religious, racial, cultural, or other differences exist**

By hosting this special week of activities at Golden Gate High School, we will be educating and bringing awareness to our special population by encouraging kindness and acceptance at our school. Not only will we be improving the environment at our own school, but we will also be benefiting the entire community by partnering with the Kiwanis Club. We have seen how our Unity Day and Spread the Word Inclusion Days have benefited our school and now we would like to take it one step further by having an entire week to showcase our students.

**Explain how it helped them counter bigotry and bullying and prepared them to stand up for justice**

By fostering acceptance and kindness, our students will gain the self-confidence to self-advocate for themselves while out in the community. Not only will our students benefit from our activities, but this campaign will also educate others at Golden Gate, Palmetto, and Immokalee High Schools since they all participate in

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our newly created Aktion Club. Also, this week of activities will be showcased to the entire community as we partner with Kiwanis Club.

**Provide Evidence/Proof of Effectiveness**

Providing proof that respecting others is quite evident by seeing the environment here at Golden Gate High School. From the time you are greeted here, you will know that this is a special place of inclusion for all. Pictures will be provided to see the acceptance and the happiness that is felt by both students and staff.



Students participated in a Needs For Hope service project in December. Kindness was the gift of our community. As you can see, our students are working with others to encourage hope, peace and charity. Everyone had a great time.



Our students participated in a Meals For Hope service project in December. Kindness means giving back to our community. As you can see, our students are working with others to encourage acceptance and diversity. Everyone had a great time.



Our school facilitated a Unity Day celebration in October. Unity Day is a day to celebrate kindness, acceptance, and inclusion. The entire school came together to share music, games, and prizes. Students took a pledge to commit to the principles of unity.



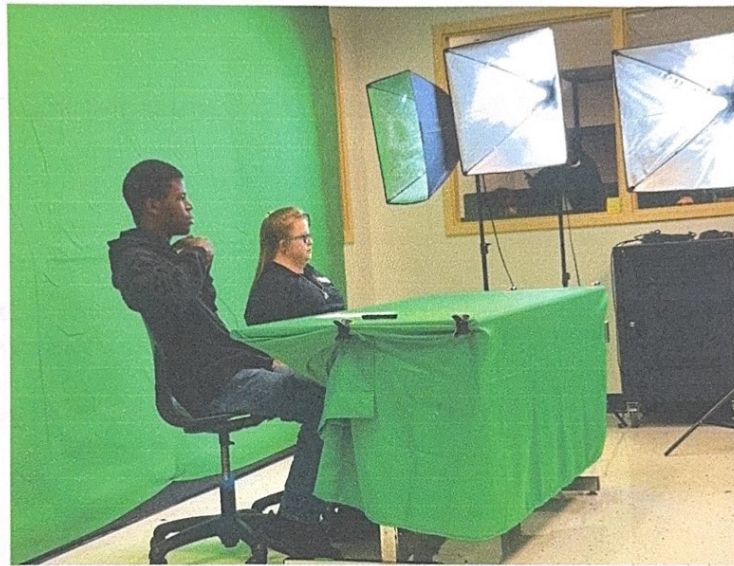
Kindness matters. Our students went on the morning news to promote awareness about breast cancer. Since one of our assistants is a breast cancer survivor, we wanted to show her some love!



We started a Cheerability Club to help support inclusion at our school. Differences should be celebrated. Funds were used to buy pom-poms and to design shirts for all of the cheerleaders to make them feel included. This environment of inclusion is something very special at Golden Gate High School.



Several of our students volunteered their time to pass out t-shirts at a local golf tournament. Community service makes us feel special and makes us feel part of a community.



“At Golden Gate, our school fosters a sense of inclusion and acceptance by promoting diversity in its curriculum, creating safe spaces for students to express their identities, and implementing anti-bullying policies that emphasize respect for all individuals. Additionally, our school actively celebrates different cultures, religions, and perspectives through various events and activities, ensuring that every student feels valued and embraced within the school community. In addition, our TV production class, known as GGTV, exemplifies inclusion by actively involving our Transition and MC students in our segments on a daily basis. Through collaborative efforts, we ensure that these students have equal opportunities to participate in various aspects of our productions, including hosting, reporting, and behind-the-scenes roles. By embracing their unique talents and perspectives, GGTV not only promotes inclusivity but also showcases the diverse abilities and potential of every student in our school.”

Guy Hensley, teacher and head varsity basketball coach at Golden Gate High School

“Our school culture naturally accepts everyone and is evident in clubs and sports.”

**Kelly Crews-Stevenson, Transition Teacher at Golden Gate High School**

“This school promotes a supportive and respectful learning environment. Students are encouraged to express themselves freely and appreciate the uniqueness of others.”

**Zenzile Corella-Martin, Transition Assistant at Golden Gate High School**

“Our school is awesome in letting students of varying abilities participate in many activities, including sports.”

**Debbie Dolan, Transition Assistant at Golden Gate High School**

“If you ever want to see inclusion at its finest, come visit our classroom for the best group of students you have ever met!”

**Carrey VanDyne, Transition Teacher at Golden Gate High School**