



Sarah Louineus



Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

CHARACTER STRENGTH INTEGRITY

SOCIAL ISSUE: *School Culture*

Causes and Research

Sarah's school, Beeber Middle School, was placed on Philadelphia's **school closing list** in 2013. Now it is located in the same building as one of the Science Leadership Academy Charter Schools. Having these two schools in the same building was very hard due to how the students from each school viewed each other.

Sarah was inspired by the writings of President John. F. Kennedy. One of his principles was 'youth should help youth.' Sarah brainstormed a lot of ideas about how she and her classmates could help people feel like they belong.

Goals and Obstacles

Sarah wanted to make her school a better place for everyone. This would be hard because there were now two schools in one building. She would have to carefully decide which were the best actions to take.



THE FACTS



- › Received the Young Heroes Award in 2014 when she was 13 years old
- › Listens to Drake and Nicki Minaj



VOCABULARY

School Closing List › a list of schools that a school district decides must be closed, usually because there isn't enough money to keep them open

Empowerment › to make someone stronger and more confident with his or her rights



SOURCES

- › Recommendation Letter by Samuel Reed



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Actions

Sarah was one of the first students to try to bring the two schools together peacefully. She decided to write “pen pal” letters to her SLA neighbors. She visited their classrooms to try to get to know her new neighbors. Her brave actions broke down barriers between the students. This helped calm a very unfriendly situation. She also created a program called “Just For Kids” to raise funds for the *Boys and Girls Clubs of America*. This followed the principle, ‘youth should help youth.’ On top of all this, Sarah is not afraid to speak up to her teachers. She felt that female students in her classroom were being treated unfairly. Sarah decided to write an essay and confront her teacher with it.

Impact

Sarah’s teacher read her essay with an open mind. He even helped her edit it before she showed it to the principal. Believe it or not, this teacher was the person who nominated her for the Young Hero Award! Sarah’s actions have taught many people a valuable lesson about student voice and **empowerment**.

“Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures.”

— JOHN F. KENNEDY