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Contact:

Philip Chen

Operations Director

philip@unscriptedproject.org

The Unscripted Project Releases 3rd Annual Report, Showcasing Major Impact as They Plan to Bring Improv Education to 25 Classrooms in the New School Year

The rapidly growing non-profit, which has served 1,500+ students across Philadelphia has shown impressive results, with 79% of students reporting increased emotional understanding

Philadelphia, PA (September 19, 2023) - [The Unscripted Project](#), a Philadelphia-based nonprofit working to equip students with the building blocks for personal and professional success through the power of an improv education, has released its annual report this week. Through strategic partnerships with local schools and community organizations, the organization, founded in 2020 by two University of Pennsylvania graduates, has successfully supported over 1,500 students across the Philadelphia school district as well as provided accredited professional development training for over 150 district teachers. Schools served include Wagner Middle School, Franklin Learning Center, Frankford High School, and many more. The organization has grown rapidly with over 85% year on year growth for students served through their free 10 week program. Students complete validated questionnaires after the program to measure impact and the results have been impressive: 80% of students feel they became better communicators, and 67% of students exhibited an increase in social self-efficacy (ability to understand and express their emotions and needs). The organization focuses on bringing improv to all students regardless of race or economic opportunity, as we work at schools where on average, 90% of students qualify for free or reduced lunch.

"The Unscripted Project has been a fantastic opportunity to introduce my students to life-changing skills and experiences all through improv. Having an outside partnership for this space allows us to break the routine, introduce new energies, and deepen students understandings of relationships — to themselves, each other, and the world around us."

- Classroom Teacher Partner, Dobbins Technical High School

The Unscripted Project partners with schools to offer a 10-week in-school workshop series built upon a first of its kind curriculum that is trauma-informed and aligned to state standards with a focus on building communities that support learning recovery and classroom engagement. The series is taught by professional teaching artists in collaboration with classroom teachers. With a specific focus on developing one key life skill (adapting to uncertainty, acceptance and listening, etc) each week, the goal is for students to leave equipped with the improv toolkit - a mindset

and a skillset that enables and empowers young people to be more adaptable, confident, and collaborative in life within and beyond the classroom.

“I loved all the games we played, it helped with my social anxiety... I learned to be kind and have an open mind”

- 11th grade Unscripted student, SLA Beeber

As the new school year gets underway, it is increasingly important for students to develop strong interpersonal skills that will set them up for success both personally and professionally. The Unscripted Project recognizes this critical need and continues to pioneer innovative approaches to empower students with essential building blocks to support them in and beyond the classroom. The organic growth and demand for the program has been tremendous, as a waitlist of 10 schools has been accumulating as the organization works to increase fundraising in order to hire additional skilled teaching artists and support more schools eager to enhance the interpersonal skills of their students.

Future Plans

Looking ahead to the new school year, the organization will be working with 25 schools and is eager to roll out its brand new curriculum for middle schools, as well as revised impact measurement to be responsive to what we are seeing in classrooms. This year, Unscripted will also continue its partnership with Mighty Writers Philadelphia for afterschool programming for students.

“The impact we’re having on both teachers and students is truly incredible,” noted Program Director Karin Potter Simmons. “It’s been a pleasure witnessing the transformation that occurs in students who complete the program and become confident, collaborative individuals who now embrace uncertainty as an opportunity for growth.” The report can be accessed on the organization's official website at: www.unscriptedproject.org

About The Unscripted Project

The Unscripted Project is an award-winning, BIPOC-led Philadelphia-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to equipping students with critical social-emotional and interpersonal skills through the transformative medium of improvisational theater. We do this primarily through our core program, a free 10-week series of in-school applied improv workshops in public middle and high schools. Since our inception in 2020, we have worked with over 1,500 students. Through our workshops, students develop key life skills like speaking confidently, collaborating effectively, and growing from mistakes in a low-stakes and laughter-filled environment. To learn more, visit www.unscriptedproject.org