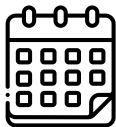


FREE HUGS PROJECT

KEN E. NWADIKE, JR.:

THE POWER OF POSITIVE HUMAN INTERACTION



Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Kenmore West High School - 9:00 AM
Students & staff only



Kenmore East High School - 1:00 PM
Students & staff only

Community Presentation

Franklin Middle School - 7:00 PM



**Kenmore
West HSA**

Ken E. Nwadike, Jr., is a peace activist, motivational speaker, and video journalist known as the Free Hugs Guy online. Nwadike Jr is the founder of the Free Hugs Project, which produces motivational videos to spread love, inspire change, and raise awareness of social issues. His 'Free Hugs' videos have reached hundreds of millions of views on Facebook and YouTube.

Once a homeless athlete himself, Ken is a leader who exemplifies resiliency and the power to pivot, creating a PPE company during the pandemic to protect his loved ones and those at risk who could not find them. He began the Black and Blue Podcast in 2020 with Sherriff Chris Swanson to make Unity cool and engage students in the civil discourse necessary for us all to move forward. With so many feeling alone due to the impact of COVID-19, Ken has the power to create truly important connections and positive human interaction .

In 2014, Nwadike launched the Free Hugs Project to spread love in response to the bombing of the Boston Marathon. The Free Hugs Project gained popularity in 2016, as Nwadike made major news headlines for his peace-keeping efforts and de-escalating violence during protests, riots, and political rallies. Nwadike was featured in Google's 2016 Year in Search video as a highlight of some of the year's most defining moments. Nwadike has made many appearances on news programs and radio broadcasts worldwide, including CNN, USA Today, Good Morning Britain, and BBC News.

DEVELOPING A LOVING SUPPORT TEAM

As a motivational speaker for students, Ken shares his personal story of overcoming homelessness and insecurities by getting involved in extracurricular activities in school. The support he received from coaches, teammates, and friends while playing sports and participating in student government activities, helped pave the way for Ken to start numerous businesses and a charitable organization that helps homeless teens.

THE POWER OF POSITIVE HUMAN INTERACTION

In this fun, creative and interactive program Ken brings his "Free Hugs Project" to engage students in conversations of understanding, and compassion amidst the rising tide of hatred and racism. Ken will interact with student leaders during small group discussions, to encourage them to spread love and kindness to transform the campus climate. His visit concludes with a keynote address that explores the power of positive human interaction.



freehugsproject.com