

Nehemiah A

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The Amazing Spaces of Belonging for Black Kids in Athens

Do you know what belonging is? Belonging can make you feel welcome , happy , and connected. Even though Black Athenians go through Racism, like Linnentown getting erased, they still feel belonging with their family and friends. Black kids in Athens find belonging by playing sports , gaming , and eating with friends and family.

The first thing that creates a belonging for Black kids in Athens is playing sports together. For example, girls and boys, older kids and younger kids love to play basketball together at my school. A Lot of boys play football together at recess too and we even made our own game out of it. This creates a sense of belonging because when we play sports as a team, everyone feels connected. Also, because we are doing something we like, it makes me feel like we are all working towards the same dream. Finally, playing sports together means we can overcome shyness towards new people.

Another way Black kids in Athens find belonging in Athens is gaming. For example, me and my brother Junior like to play Madden 23 together and my sister Savannah and I like to play Fortnite. Gaming is very fun to play with my family because we get to be together doing something we all like. Gaming can also help create belonging because you can connect with old friends that you haven't seen in a while. Finally, gaming can help you start new friendships with kids your age. Overall, gaming is a way I feel belonging with my family and my friends.

The final place Black kids feel belonging is eating with friends and family. Whether eating Thanksgiving dinner with my family, or having lunch in the cafeteria, eating together makes me calm and like everyone is getting along. This creates a sense of belonging because everyone feels welcomed. It also is a way to enjoy family traditions, which makes me feel joyful. Finally,

eating together allows you to see people you have not seen in a long time, helping you reconnect with important people in your life.

In conclusion playing sports, gaming, and eating together creates a sense of belonging for Black kids in Athens. This matters because all Black kids in Athens need somewhere where they belong.