



Delaware Township School

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Delaware Township School



Service Learning Program

Service Learning

“You should know that education of the heart is very important. This will distinguish you from others. Educating oneself is easy, but educating ourselves to help other human beings to help the community is much more difficult.”

Cesar E. Chavez, social activist



Overview

Delaware Township School middle school students, with the support and encouragement from the adults in their world, will participate in a pilot service learning program for the 2016-2017 school year. In understanding why service learning is important and what the difference is between service learning and community service it is important to understand the connection between volunteering because someone tells you to do so, and volunteering or working for a cause because of your own personal values and connection to the service you are doing. Community service connects a student to his or her community, while service learning connects a student to their own learning.

Connection to the curriculum

Service learning has two curricular connections: character education and career/college readiness. Both components are learned in an experiential way through hands on service learning projects.

Requirements

We will require four hours per year in sixth, seventh, and eighth grade. Each student will be asked to select a project during the first marking period and must complete it by the end of the school year with two check-ins during the year with the school counselor. Students can complete hours inside or outside of school and a list of acceptable projects will be generated and sent home to parents. If you are unable to assist your child outside of school with their selected project, please notify Ms. Quinn or Mrs. Racile by phone or email and we will be happy to assist your child in securing their desired project. The students will have many opportunities inside school to fulfill this four hour requirement. If your child already participates in an outside service learning organization like Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, or Student Council, they can use those hours to fulfill their requirement.