

Caring for Our School

We have completed all four weeks of our caring unit. Now it's time to apply everything you have learned. Over the next week or two, we will be working towards planning and executing a service project to benefit our school.

Caring Sub-Concept(s)

Compassion, Gratitude, Empathy, Kindness

Project Timeframe

1-2 weeks, broken up as needed by class schedule

Required Materials

- Workgroup Handouts (see below)
- Computer
- Basic Art Supplies
- Other materials will vary depending on project selected

Standards Map

This project aligns with CASEL Competencies, National Health Education Standards, International Society for Technology in Education Standards, when applicable, and Common Core State Standards. Please refer to the [Standards Map](#) for more information.

Here is the plan for this project:

- 1) As a class, we will brainstorm areas of concern within our school community. This could be anything that we identify as a class, from accessibility to esthetics. What is one area you would like to make a positive change?
- 2) Each of you will be assigned a specific workgroup once our service project is identified. It is your responsibility to participate to your full potential within your group.
- 3) Over the next two weeks, we will work together to complete our assigned tasks towards the larger project. At the end of the project, we will present our positive change to the principal through a formal presentation.

PART 1: Identifying Our Project

Over the next several days we are focusing on identifying an area within our school that would truly benefit from a positive change. This is our chance to utilize our empathy and compassion to improve our school in a tangible way.

Let's watch this video to better understand what service learning is.

<https://youtu.be/kFd-yiAfrmE>

Now it's time to brainstorm our own ideas based on the needs of our school and community. To ensure that everyone has the ability to suggest a topic, we will follow the following process:

- As a class we will discuss large topics that we feel passionate about within our school. (Some ideas might include accessibility, bullying, esthetics of the school, accountability, inclusiveness, etc.)
- Each person will write one idea down on an anonymous index card.
- The teacher will collect all of the ideas and read them aloud.
- The teacher will tally up the ideas and the most popular idea will become our service project for this unit.
- Make sure to adjust your project to fit the timeframe you have to work within. For example, do not select building a ramp if you only have one or two class periods to accomplish your task.

PART 2: Planning and Execution

During the next week or so, we will work in assigned groups to complete our service project. Everyone must participate. You will be required to submit a reflection paragraph outlining your contribution to the project and your overall feelings regarding our class accomplishment. Check out this link for more information on how to execute a service project:

We will divide up our service project into the following four categories:

- **Investigation** (1 Day, 30-45 minutes)
What are the needs of our school and community? What are some possible solutions? Who, outside of our class, might be interested in helping? Break the class into groups of 4-6 and have each group fill out the Investigation handout below. As a class, discuss each investigation and vote on the topic that is both the most needed AND fits into your time schedule for this project.
- **Planning** (2-3 Days, 30 minutes each day)
This is a large component of your project. It can be broken down into the following sections: Creating S.M.A.R.T. Goals, Developing a Timeline, and Outlining our Action Plan. You will be divided into 3 groups with one of these tasks as your assignment. See the related handouts below to guide the conversation within your group. Remember, you must feel confident about your plan BEFORE we can move forward with serving our school and/or community.
- **Service** (3-7 days, depends on project selected)
It's time to get started! We will work as a team to complete our project. NOTE: You will want to divide your class into smaller groups based on all the different tasks that are needed to complete the project. This will be very project specific.
- **Evaluation** (1-2 Days)
It is important to evaluate our efforts and reflect on how we did and what we would change moving forward. Have each student fill out the accompanying Evaluation handout and then discuss the project as a class.

If possible, allow your normally scheduled RAK time for working on this project in class. 15 minutes each day might not seem like a lot, but it adds up over 12 days. Another option is to set aside an entire class period once a week to accomplish this project. If you look closely, any subject can be woven into this project so you don't feel like the service project takes too much time away from your normal instruction time.

1 INVESTIGATION

Who will be part of this project?
List the names of all the participants:

Name	Signature
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Why does this issue exist?
List three possible answers:

What are some possible solutions?

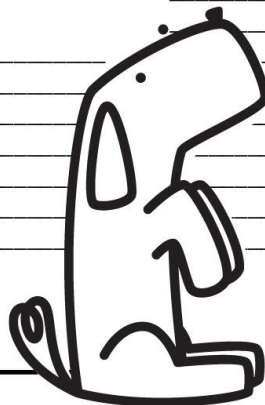
Who else might we need to help us? Are there other adults, community members, teachers, or peers that can help?

Name

How will you use kindness, caring, gratitude, empathy, and compassion to make a difference?

Determine Need

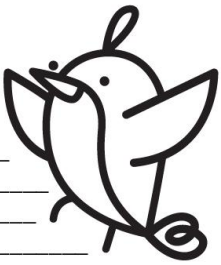
What is one challenging area within our school community that would benefit from a positive change?



2 PLANNING

Tasks that need to be completed	Who is responsible?	Materials/Supplies Needed	Due Date
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
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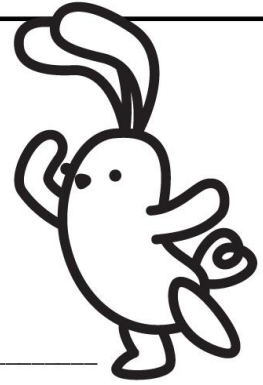
Notes



Remember to set S.M.A.R.T. goals:

- S = Specific**
- M = Measurable**
- A = Achievable**
- R = Realistic**
- T = Timely**

3 SERVICE



GROUP 1

Goal

Specific Tasks

Timeline

GROUP 2

Goal

Specific Tasks

Timeline

GROUP 3

Goal

Specific Tasks

Timeline

GROUP 4

Goal

Specific Tasks

Timeline

4 EVALUATION

Complete this evaluation handout based on your experience within our service project. Come prepared to class to discuss your personal assessment of the assignment, including any suggestions you might have about what you would do differently, include, adjust, etc. Your voice counts!

Did we accomplish our goal(s)?

What was the most important contribution you made to the service project?

On a scale of 1-10 how effective was our project in meeting our SMART goal(s)? _____

How do you feel about what we were able to accomplish?

What do you feel went well?

What would you change if you could do the project all over again?

What impact do you think your project had in the community?

