

Project Plan

Title of Project: Have we REALLY learned anything from Scrooge?

Grade Level: Accelerated 7th grade

Number of Students Participating: around 80

Contributed by:

Teacher: Niki Jones and Emily Morgan

School: Fairmont Junior High School

District: Boise School District

Overview/Description of Project: Students will work on their own or with a group to identify a need in our community, make a plan, and follow through with their plan. They will serve different communities of their choice, give an array of service, and take time to reflect on the whole process. Students will cap off the project by presenting their work to friends and family at a Night of Sharing.

Goals: Students will go out in the community and perform a service. They will see the needs in their community and see the value of performing service.

Core Content Areas: English

Civic Responsibility: Serving their community

Literacy Connection: *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens

PARC MODEL STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

STEP 1: PREPARATION

Community Contacts: Taken care of by individual students if there is a need.

Preparation Activities: Students will read *A Christmas Carol* as a play in class. Then we will introduce different kinds of service, purpose of service, and how they might get started. Students will make a plan and follow through with their plan.

STEP 2: ACTION

Possible Actions: Students will find a need, prepare a service, and follow through with their plan. They will reflect on the project and present it at a Night of Sharing.

STEP 3: REFLECTION (*Reflection is not sequential: rather it is encouraged throughout the lesson*)

Students will reflect each day on their progress, adjust as needed, and then fill out a final reflection at the end.

STEP 4: CELEBRATION/DEMONSTRATION

Students will share their projects at a Night of Sharing for their family and friends.

Service Celebration: After everything has been accomplished, we will celebrate our accomplishments in class!

Teacher Reflection

Reflection is a vital component of the service-learning experience, and isn't just limited to students. At the end of your service-learning project, please take a few minutes to reflect on your experience. Answers can be brief or detailed; the goal is to get a sense of your overall feelings regarding your experience with this service-learning project. If additional space is needed, please attach to the back of this form.

Name and School: Fairmont Junior High School

Project name and brief description: (from the Night of Inquiry Program)

Have we REALLY learned anything from Scrooge?
A Service Learning Project

Whether you have read the novella, seen a picture book, watched the movie versions, or seen Scrooge in a play, the message of *A Christmas Carol* is clear: be generous to those around you, or there will be consequences.

But despite the fact that this story has stayed popular for more than 150 years, we must ask ourselves if society has REALLY learned this lesson. Do we act any better than people did in 1843? Do we really take care of the poor? Are we kind to others? And when we do follow the Golden Rule, are we doing so for the right (selfless) reasons?

This project was an important way for students to connect what we're learning in school with the communities around them. Students worked diligently on their or with a group to identify a need, make a plan, and follow through with their plan. They served different communities, gave an array of service, and took time to reflect on the whole process.

Students capped off the project by presenting their work to friends and family at a Night of Sharing.

What impact did this project have on your community?

Parents and staff were incredibly impressed with the work our students were doing. Those who were served were grateful for the time and energy put forth by the students. Students were asked to document their work in the form of a poster. Many of them had pictures of them doing the work and it was clear by the faces of those being served, this had an impact on them.

What impact did this project have on your students?

The students appreciated being part of something like this and having the opportunity to work on a need they saw. It was great to see their excitement and the connection between our learning and the real world. They were enthusiastic, organized, and almost all were able to follow through with the plan they had created. They worked on time management and also communication skills as they set up appointments and contacted different people or organizations.

What impact did this project have on you?

We were incredibly impressed with the work our students chose to do. Some were quite ambitious and it was great to see how they were able to jump in and show us some different skills. It was exciting to see them coming up with innovative and creative ideas, making thoughtful plans, and then following through with them. As they presented their projects, they were so proud, and that is what we want to see as teachers. Parents, friends and staff were also impressed with the work students accomplished. It was nice to see them being compassionate, thoughtful, and out doing good in our community.

Do you have any advice to offer other teachers who are incorporating service-learning? Were there any lessons learned that you would like to share?

Reflection, immediately, is always important. We took time to look at pros and cons in order to better plan for next year. We did this work with accelerated students, so we knew they would be generally enthusiastic and willing to take on such a big task. We want to make sure to continually make connections to our reading and curriculum. At times it seemed to just be about the service project. This is tricky, but we know we can do a better job of it next year. We had to be willing to let go and let the students do what they needed, but also keep them on track to get done in the allotted time. There was a lot of balancing to be done. Overall, it was such a great experience and we can't wait to try it again!