

The PTA's Middle School Character and Community Committee

MISSION

The purpose of the Middle School Character and Community Committee is to work with the administration and faculty to provide students with opportunities to engage with their local communities through varied community service projects and organizations.

We hope that through community service, students will engage with the community, demonstrate leadership and participate in activities that have a lasting, positive impact on society at large. Community service or volunteerism enables students to acquire life skills and knowledge, as well as provide a service to those who need it most. Moreover, students will see real impact for their efforts and the positive difference they can make locally and globally through hands on projects which support local not-for-profits.

Students are encouraged to keep a record of their service hours and all students who record THREE community service hours in a quarter will receive recognition by the MS administration. Please note that VOLUNTEERING IS NOT REQUIRED at Bronxville MS! Furthermore, students are not limited to MSCC organized service. All community service is encouraged and should be recorded.

Please speak with your students about the projects available to them.

Current and Ongoing Community Service Opportunities:

Westhab is a non-profit organization in Yonkers dedicated to improving the lives of homeless and at-risk youth and families in Westchester. The Bronxville High School Youth Council and Middle School Community Service programs have been involved by running a special Saturday program at the Reformed Church for the children. Approximately 50 children from Westhab, ranging from age four to 18, attend the Saturday sessions and enjoy basketball, games, crafts, snacks, lunch, but mostly friendship, with the Bronxville volunteers. Westhab employees and Bronxville parents chaperone. There are approximately 10 meetings from October through May which include themed events around the holidays and one off site trip as the final session. Each session lasts from 10:30am-12:30pm and the first one is on Saturday, October 13th. Additional dates: 11/17, 12/1, 12/15 (angel tree), 1/19, 2/9, 3/2, 3/23, 4/20, 5/4, 6/8 (end of year party)

Wartburg is a Senior Citizen home in Mount Vernon. Our community service program at Wartburg is a "two for one" volunteer opportunity. Once a month, Middle School students visit with elderly residents of Wartburg, and together with the seniors, work to assemble utensil packs (disposable napkin rolls with fork, knife and condiments) for the nearby Mount Vernon CSA Soup Kitchen. Parent volunteers provide rides for students after school. Students spend

an hour and fifteen minutes with the Wartburg residents and are returned to the ES Canopy by 5:00. Our first visit to Wartburg is Monday, September 24. Additional dates: 11/19

Soup Kitchen Cooking (Formerly called Master Chef) On the first Wednesday of the month, Middle School students working in Ms. Myers's classroom B114, prepare, cook, taste and clean up side dishes and desserts for Mount Vernon's CSA Soup Kitchen. Our first event is on October 3. Additional dates: Wednesdays 11/7, 12/5, 1/9, 2/6, 3/6, 4/3, 5/1

Soup Kitchen Serving The CSA Soup Kitchen in Mount Vernon provides dinner for the needy four nights a week. Our students help serve meals to soup kitchen clients. Parent volunteers drive the students to the soup kitchen from the ES Canopy at 4:35 and return them to school at 6PM. Wednesday, October 24 is our first visit to the soup kitchen. Additional dates: Thurs. 11/8, Tues. 12/11, Thurs. 1/24, Tues. 2/26, Wed. 3/13, Thurs. 4/11, Tues. 5/14

Mentoring Under the supervision of the High School Youth Council (and a few parent volunteers), MS students meet with ES students grades 3-5 for conversations, snacks and games. The goal is to provide ES students with MS friends who will give them student to student advice and "show them the ropes." This is especially valuable to those who don't have older siblings at Bronxville School. The first mentoring event is on October 9. Students may sign up for mentoring themselves in the MS office or have their parents sign them up.

Shoe Drive We are seeking gently used men's shoes, sneakers, or boots for clients of the soup kitchen. Donations may be left in the box in the ES Canopy.

Potential Upcoming Volunteer Activities and Organizations

ECAP (Eastchester Community Partnership Alliance)

Gardening at the Bronxville Giving Garden

Westchester Parks Foundation

Fundraising for CSA Soup Kitchen Mount Vernon

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