

UNITY IN OUR COMMUNITY

As leaders in our school, we need to not only serve our home community but also reach out to a broader group of people. Projects/activities that will impact your students and those within and outside your community that is simple to plan, easy to repeat, and make a difference for all involved.

Within the School

- “Hearts for Houston”:

On Valentine’s Day, the students, faculty, and staff arrive at school to find hearts placed all over the school. Each heart has a name on it and every person in the building has a heart with his or her name on it. Each grade level has a different color along with the faculty and staff. There are guides placed around the school that will let everyone know what color to look for in order to find their name. The students, faculty, and staff spend the entire day looking for ‘their heart’.

-Four weeks before the event:

1. Request the names of every student in each grade level and every faculty/staff member in the school
2. Decide the colors that you will use for each grade level and for faculty/staff
3. Purchase the different colors of paper and begin cutting out the hearts.

-Three weeks before the event:

1. Make copies of all the names on address stickers or begin to write the names on the hearts
2. Schedule days in the next few weeks to meet before or after school to get the hearts ready for the big day
3. Decide on a hashtag for social media purposes

-Day before Valentine’s Day or the designated day

1. Randomly place the hearts all over the building
2. Put up the guides that will tell students and faculty/staff how to find their heart and what hashtag to use

-Impacts everyone in the school building – students in all grade levels, teachers, teacher assistants, staff members, guidance counselors, custodial staff

-On Valentine’s Day, everyone gets some attention

- Random Acts of Kindness:

On the 100th day of school, we came up with 100 different random acts of kindness. A table was set up in the main lobby during lunches for a full week where students could come by and collect a random act of kindness to do during that week. The random acts of kindness were written on yellow circles – RAK on one side and smiley face on the other. The students were to pick up the RAK and take a photo documenting them in the act. The students were to post the photon on social media using a specific hashtag.

Within the Community:

- Inner-City Relationships

- Binghampton neighborhood – Tilman Police Station

- Two yearly events

1. 'Trick or Trunk'

- Students bring cars and decorate with different themes and games to go along with the theme

- Police officers decorate a table with a game

- Children and parents go around from car to car to play games and get plenty of candy

- Planning: Different themes are chosen with games to go along with the theme. The person in charge of that specific car and game dresses up in a Halloween costume to go with the theme, as well. Candy is collected from the student council members.

2. Easter Egg Hunt

- Students set up different games for the children and parents to participate in while waiting for the egg hunt

- Plastic eggs filled with candy are hidden in the grassy area. Two different areas are designated for different age groups.

- Each one of these events impact not only the neighborhood families who return year after year, but also the police officers and the students. It is a favorite activity for everyone involved. We provide safe, fun activities for an inner-city community. The students learn to plan and organize the event and realize the importance of accepting others regardless of ethnicity or socio-economic status.

- KIPP Memphis Academy Elementary School

- Inner-city school

- Through a company based in our community – Agape North – we have begun building a relationship with KMAE. The clubs and organizations at our school purchases t-shirts from Agape North who will donate a specific number of school uniform shirts or sweatshirts to the students at KMAE. (Same philosophy as TOMS shoes) Over the past couple of years, our SGA students have been able to be a part of the donation at the school. The students are able to split up and go into the classrooms to interact with the children.