



STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

SCHOOL: Delaware Township School

ACTIVITY: Read Across America Book Drive

DATE(S): (annually) March

CATEGORY: Educational/Student Services

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PROVIDE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THIS PROJECT:

In the true spirit of the mission initiated by Sr. Seuss, our DTS Student Councils co-hosts an annual book drive for the elementary students of the district. The project is aimed at creating awareness about the importance of literacy and motivating students of all ages to become lifelong readers. Students donate books they no longer wish to keep for themselves in the weeks leading up to Dr. Seuss' birthday. Once the collection process has been completed, the Student Council members form a miniature version of a "bookmobile" by visiting all the elementary classrooms with books on a cart for the students to swap for the books they donated. Any books remaining once the swap has been completed are donated to the local hospital for pediatric patients.

DESCRIBE THE PLANNING & EXECUTION OF THIS PROJECT:

The planning of this event begins upon our return from winter break. Both students and staff scour the shelves for books looking for a new home. As collection for the event begins, books are inspected for excessive wear and tear in addition to appropriateness for elementary students. A student council advisor or our elementary partner contacts all staff and families of the event. Student Council members utilize activity period (study hall) time to collect the books and interact with the elementary students throughout the project.

DESCRIBE THE BENEFIT OF THIS PROJECT BENEFIT TO SCHOOL AND/OR COMMUNITY:

What better way to honor Dr. Seuss than by celebrating reading with a new book? Our elementary students enjoy this project tremendously and especially love talking with our middle school students about books they love. The book swap has been an essential ingredient in promoting literacy and building lifelong readers in the DTS community. The book swap has also allowed families in need to continue to encourage their children to grow as readers by gaining new titles through a swap setting at no cost. It has been incredibly rewarding to see something once loved bring joy to someone new.

EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS PROJECT, REFLECTING ON ANY POSSIBLE CHANGES YOU MIGHT CONSIDER:

As the popularity of the book swap continues to grow, we would like to expand the project in several ways. First, a book swap with titles appropriate for our middle school students has been repeatedly requested. With the growing market for teen novels, it is a prime opportunity to hook some of the reluctant readers in our middle school population. Secondly, our student council would like to collect both new and previously-owned books so that we may collaborate with the Worldwide Book Drive organization. Promoting literacy internationally allows students to have an impact in the global community.