

# Curriculum Integration

**English** Freshman Speech students went to Oakdale Elementary School to give the fifth graders feedback on their speeches and to help get them ready for public speaking. Also, five speech students became part of Make-A-Wish Speaker's Bureau. Once on the Speaker's Bureau, the students go to schools and corporations explaining Make-A-Wish and its purpose.

**Social Studies** Civics students get involved in the political arena by making a big effort to help register senior students to vote. Civics students have helped make posters announcing the registration time and place. American Government students have assisted by making flyers, word of mouth publicity, registration activities, etc. A goal has been set to have all seniors registered to vote when the graduate, and in some years an achievement of 75 to 80 percent registration has been attained.

American Government students have served as Moot Court Jurors for the Creighton Law School Moot Court.

Civics students have also become extremely active in participating in political campaigns.

**Foreign Language** Spanish students (of all grade levels) tutor other students who are struggling with the language.

The Spanish speaking students did a spot on a national community campaign on kidnap alertness. Spanish students also help by correcting papers, sharing their ancestry and preparing edible treats. Foreign Language students work with ESL students outside of the building (one teacher has had several students who have volunteered to work with her ESL night class at Metro Community College); students made banners and cooked different ethnic foods for the Multicultural festival; students designed displays in the department; students present stories in the target language to an audience of elementary school students.

At certain levels of Spanish, students are required to teach Spanish to elementary children--this reinforces our students knowledge of the language.

**Engineering Technology** Our wood production class has again participated in the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program for the 3rd

year in a row. The class designed and built 50 candy machines out of wood and plastic for Christmas distribution. They were able to secure the needed materials and candy so that our costs were minimal. We had 13 students who donated the first semester class time and spent an average of 10 hours each work outside of the regular class. They had a lot of fun and learned a lot about giving of yourself as well as what was learned in class. Each candy machine has a probable value of at least \$30. They were made on a mass production assembly line, finished, and boxed up for delivery. The Marine Corps took care of distribution.

The construction class has been active in building fences for homes/families in need. Students have even used their free time on weekends to complete these projects for the community.

**Fine Arts** Students in Design and Graphic Design classes have helped put up displays, created posters for the Alzheimer's Association, designed logos for community organizations and events, painted a mural at Paddock Road Elementary School, and have continuously acted as student assistants in cleaning and organizing the art area.

The TV Journalism Class has made a Public Service Announcement for the Nebraska Humane Society. Students have produced an anniversary video for The Assistance League of Omaha and the Westside Family Education Center. Also, Westside High School produces its own cable show which can be viewed by the whole community.

**Career Center** For PE class, students use equipment their teacher provided to host a field day for the children of Westbrook Early Childhood Education Center. Each of the students plans and administers a sport skill activity for the little one (i.e. kicking a soccer ball, shooting hoops, ect.)

For math class, students host a bake sale at school and donate proceeds to an approved nonprofit agency. For instance, this year, each group of approximately 3 students determined what they would bake/cook and sell (i.e. included grilled cheese sandwiches, pizza, cookies, rice krispie bars, etc.) Since it was done in December, the classes voted on Toys for Tots as the approved cause. After earning the money, selected students accompanied the teacher to buy the

toys and to deliver them. The students were even on live television with Mayor Daub when they delivered them.

The science class is planning to do a landscaping project on the school grounds.

For Social Studies, students collected information on various countries, organize the information in a book, and donated the student-related books to Hillside Elementary School.

In another English class, students created an instruction form explaining a popular learning game. The forms, as well as business letters explaining them, were sent to student teachers, at the University of Northern Iowa, as a suggestion for use in their future classrooms.

**Special Education** Special Education students at Westside are also provided many opportunities to complete service learning activities. They volunteer at the Bergan Mercy Care Center (an elderly home) in the food services area, at the American Cancer Society, Red Cross, Leukemia Society, MDA, the Nebraska (National Parks), Omaha Childrens Museum, and frequently do mailing projects for community organizations that deliver the supplies to the school. Some students also serve as team managers for the various sports teams. Their tasks include gathering balls, getting water supplies, and assisting the coaches as needed. Students also make grocery purchases for the Family and Consumers Department, wash, dry and fold laundry (swim towels, etc.), stuff envelopes, attach labels, shred confidential documents, and boot and/or shut down computers in computer lab.

**Physical Education** Many Westside High School swimmers spend numerous hours working with young children through the "Learn-to-Swim" program.

We use service learning to help increase the participation level of special needs students. It helps the students realize that "handicapped" is just a term and that all students have something special to offer. It also helps the special needs student feel involved in the whole group dynamic of class. They aren't just shoved off in a corner to amuse themselves while the rest of the class goes on. Pairing them really benefits both students.

**Family & Consumer Studies** Students in the advanced levels of Child Development spend 2.5 to 4 hours a week volunteering in a

primary classroom or early childhood center. They spend their time reading with and assisting students with various needs, helping the teachers in any way possible, observing, and then reflecting upon their experiences.

**Miscellaneous** Homerooms: we have participated in the canned food drive sponsored by the United Way and we have, for three years, sponsored a family from the social settlement for Christmas, providing them with gifts and food.

**Extracurricular Activities** The Latin Club (aka Junior Classical League) goes to the after-school program at Loveland Elementary School and teaches 2nd graders Latin.

Westside DECA is a very active club! For Honey Sunday, DECA does not just send volunteers to sell honey, they organize and manage the entire event for Southwest Omaha. (They have consistently raised more money than any other school group.) All of the profits from Honey Sunday go to the Ollie Webb Center (a group enhancing the lives of the mentally handicapped.) DECA also raised money for MDA this year, did craft projects for the elderly at retirement homes, and helped with the Toys for Tots program.

The Welcome to Westside club organizes an annual "Holiday Gift Giving Project," in which families are adopted through the Social Settlement Program. Families were adopted and Westside students and staff donated gifts and raised money for the families.

Westside's Student Advisory Board (SAB) raised \$3,000 for Make-A-Wish through various activities including school dances, a talent show, and a Mr. WHS pageant. SAB also sponsored an "afternoon of activities" for K-3 students within the district, so parents could get their Christmas shopping done or just have an afternoon free.

Westside's Future Medical Associates (FMA) helped the local Alzheimer's Association with activities related to their annual fund raising Memory Walk. Club members gathered at Westside's Foods lab on a Saturday morning and made salt and flour "cookies" that were used in a craft project for children at the Memory Walk. At the memory walk, six boys entertained participants by singing and playing musical instruments. FMA also runs the Bloodmobile twice a year, at which we collect an average of 70 pints of blood. Besides this, FMA has also visited nursing homes in the to play bingo or deliver May

Baskets to the residents.

National Honor Society (NHS) volunteers at the Homework Helpline, Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army, and participates and raises money at a Bowl-a-thon for Spina Bifida.

The Environmental Interact club promotes increased environmental awareness through a variety of service learning opportunities.

Students will participate in weekly meetings, social and scientific activities, as well as community service projects that provide environmental benefits. Environmental Interact is a Rotary-sponsored service club. Members increase environmental awareness by

development of a fully functional paper recycling program which is managed by the students at Westside High School. Members of Environmental Interact reviewed several recycling companies and

selected Weyerhaeuser Recycling for the schools paper recycling program. The goal is to recycle 2000 pounds of paper per month.

Environmental Interact members have met with architects to evaluate possible green spaces on campus which could be utilized for

landscape development. Environmental Interact attended the Fall Festival of Colors to develop ideas for an outdoor learning learning lab.

With the upcoming Spring landscaping, Environmental Interact will organized and provide many service learning opportunities for students at Westside.