

Benefits

of Service Learning

For Teachers...

Relevance — Service learning ties the principles and process of democracy to practical community problem solving.

Motivation — Challenging students to make a difference in their school or community through service projects will motivate students and improve academic achievement.

Student-Centered Learning — With service learning projects, the responsibility for learning is centered with the students. The teacher guides the process and provides resources.

Community Resources — Service learning puts students in touch with community advisors and resources that expand the learning environment beyond the teacher, the textbook, and the classroom.

Rewards of Service — The students, the teacher, and the whole school will experience the rewards of serving others and solving school and community problems.

For Students...

Academic Enrichment — Service learning provides the intellectual and emotional challenge to learn the principles and process of our democratic system. The practical application of social science to real community problems gives a much needed stimulus to enhance the academic achievement of students, especially in U.S. history and government courses.

Civic Responsibility — Students learn by doing. Service learning allows them to practice in the community the civic values and concepts they learn in the classroom. With guided practice, in school and community problem solving, they learn that they can make a difference.

Building Character — A great way for students to learn about core values, such as fairness, respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, and especially caring, is through service learning. Service learning also bolsters confidence and stimulates compassion.

“Education is the key to honoring America’s promise. Our schools are indeed the crucible of our democracy. By solving real-life problems, students engaged in service learning are challenged to exercise leadership and responsibility. Citizenship is something we learn, not something we merely inherit...”

– Improving Our Schools and the Challenge of Citizenship