

Senior-Senior Prom (11-12)

Language Arts, Visual Arts, Music, and Culinary Arts

Summary: High school seniors create a prom for senior citizens at a local retirement home.

Service and Learning Activities

Preparation: High school seniors visit and conduct activities with retirement home residents throughout the year (playing games, performing skits, conducting oral histories, looking at old newspapers together, etc.). The students study and connect concepts and theories about aging to the real world. They plan a prom for the seniors. They research and select music from the seniors' era. Students divide into committees: decorations (art, agriculture/floral), food preparation (culinary arts, Mathematics), invitations and prom program (language arts); photography (visual arts), and music and entertainment (music and drama). A dance instructor visits the class to teach the students dance steps. Students create a survey for the seniors to evaluate the success of the prom.

Action: The students and seniors hold the prom. Students take photographs of each senior with a student and of the prom in general. After the prom, the students frame the individual photographs of the seniors and create a scrapbook.

Reflection: Students write a reflective essay explaining the connection between characteristics of the elderly, the social problems confronting this population in the United States, and stereotyping. Journals and discussions – What did you learn about senior citizens during this year? Did your partnership with the seniors change any views you previously had about senior citizens? How did you feel about creating the prom with the seniors? What are some activities you would like to do with seniors next year? How could this project be improved? What were the greatest challenges in doing this project? What impact(s) did the project have on those serving and served?

Demonstration: Students present the seniors with the framed photographs and with the scrapbook on their last visit for the school year. Students can give demonstrations of period dance, dress, and music to younger peers. Students can also create and present poems, public service announcements, songs, artwork, lessons, videos, skits, displays, or murals to teach other students or the larger community about the project, the need(s) it addresses, and the impact of their efforts.

Standards

Social Studies: The student

SS.A.1.4 Understands the historical chronology and the historical perspective.

SS.B.2.4 Understands the interactions of people and the physical environment.

Language Arts: The student

LA.A.1.4 Uses the reading process effectively.

LA.A.2.4 Conducts meaning from a wide range of texts.

LA.B.1.4 Uses the writing processes effectively.

LA.B.2.4 Writes to communicate ideas and information effectively.

LA.C.3.4 Uses speaking strategies effectively.

Mathematics: The Student

MA.B.1.4 Measures quantities in the real world and uses the measures to solve problems.

Arts Dance: The student

DA.A1.4 Identifies and demonstrates movement elements in performing dance.

Arts Music: The student

MU.C.1.4 Understands music in relation to culture and history.

MU.E.2.4 Understands the relationship between music and the world beyond the school setting.

Visual Arts: The student

VA.A.1.4 Understands and applies media, techniques, and processes.

Academic Objectives

- Understand the characteristics associated with biological, physiological, psychological, and social aging
- Use culinary, artistic, musical, writing, and technology skills to create elements needed to create a senior prom for a retirement community

Assessment(s): Survey, essay, group work (e.g., invitations, programs, music, decoration/art, food, preparation, etc.)

Service Objectives

- Give both generations the opportunity to form their own conclusion about another generation
- Develop friendships based on mutual respect and appreciation of each others' knowledge, skills and interests
- Both populations recognize themselves as valuable community contributors, capable of making a difference in the lives of others

Assessment(s): Surveys and Response of senior citizens