

The Mountain School Goes to Kindergarten

Community Objective

To provide “Big Brother” relationships and services to kindergarten students at Beverly Elementary.

Background

Elkins Mountain School (EMS) is a juvenile treatment facility for males ages 12-17. Students are court-ordered residents of the facility. Education is provided on-site. Service-learning is an established part of the curriculum of EMS. Most students are required by the court system to complete a designated number of community service hours. Integrating this requirement with Service-learning makes the experience more meaningful to the student. This project also provides the opportunity for students who have traditionally been receivers of services to become providers. EMS students have never been considered positive role models and this project provides the opportunity for younger children to look up to our students. By working with kindergarten age students, EMS students get the opportunity to be part of another’s learning, even though they are academically challenged.

Challenged Student Conditions

- ~Academically challenged students will participate in this program provided they receive appropriate training and plan how they can assist students who are less skilled than they.
- ~Behaviorally challenged students will participate in this program provided they are making significant progress toward behavior goals, progressing through the level system, and maintaining consistent behavior (earning 85% of points) in class.

Resources

- ~Elementary school that is eager to participate including staff, students, and parents.
- ~Funding to cover transportation, supplies, etc.
- ~Coordination between EMS and Randolph County Schools
- ~Student volunteers who meet qualifications.
- ~Teacher willing to dedicate time and effort beyond a regular day.

WEST VIRGINIA'S
SERVICE-LEARNING LESSON-PLANS
FOR K-12 CHALLENGED STUDENTS

Timeline of Service Activities

- September ~Identify a site and work with elementary administrator and teacher(s) to organize the program
~Plan a weekly schedule for staff and students.
~Arrange for transportation.
~Plan and organize activities.
- October-
May ~Implement weekly visits to elementary school.
~At the end of each nine-week session, review project with elementary staff, EMS staff and students.

Reflection

- ~Each student will keep a journal of each service experience which will include assigned writings addressing specific questions and anecdotes about their own feelings as well as the feelings of their peers.
- ~A daily enhancement period will be arranged to provide a forum in which students may share feelings and ideas and gain a greater understanding of themselves and the community.
- ~Each student will examine his attitudes and feelings about working with school peers and personnel, community personnel and the kindergarten students.
- ~Students will make observations about how the individual children's lives were changed.
- ~Students will share information from their journals that they kept during the operation of the program.

Celebration

- ~The elementary teacher will host a luncheon for the EMS students participating in the program. Food will be provided by a local restaurant. Students, EMS faculty, and elementary staff eat together. The time is dedicated to celebration and reflection. Students share their successes and failures, and they make suggestions for positive changes in future projects.
- ~Upon completion of the program, students receive certificates to be included in their portfolios.

WEST VIRGINIA'S
SERVICE-LEARNING LESSON-PLANS
FOR K-12 CHALLENGED STUDENTS

- ~The success of the program is shared with other EMS students and staff.
- ~Participating students are recognized at an EMS Awards Ceremony where they are encouraged to discuss the program in a panel forum.

Academic Objectives

WV IGOs

English/Language Arts

- ~Review appropriate interpersonal communication skills. (9.1)
- ~Match the level of language formality to the situation. (9.7)
- ~Develop different strategies of reading. (9.31)

Process/Workplace

- ~Systematically analyze a situation and then plan, organize and implement a concept to improve that situation. (PW.1)
- ~Given an event or activity, identify the resources needed and develop a plan or action. (PW.5)
- ~Demonstrate self-motivation. (PW.37)
- ~Work independently without direct supervision. (PW.38)

Contact Information

Angie Senic
Elkins Mountain School
100 Bell Street
Elkins, WV 26241
Randolph County
(304) 637-0313
asenic@hotmail.com