

Veterans Homecoming

Community Objective(s)

To organize and properly welcome the local veterans by sharing America's core values of freedom, justice, equality and respect for all people, by saying, "Thank you."

Background

Veterans' Homecoming is the day Sissonville Middle School has rolled out the red carpet for their local veterans for the last three years. Veterans' Day is the only American holiday created to remember a specific instant in time. At 11:00 A.M. on the 11th day of the 11th month, the guns fell silent. For years, Armistice Day kept alive that single trembling moment, the moment on November 11, 1918. Sissonville Middle School students has continued to keep that moment alive by paying tribute, as they recognize the contributions of community service men and women have made to the cause of peace and freedom. The Veterans Homecoming is an integrated school-wide unit. English classes write letters of invitation; Art classes produce wall murals; Social Studies classes cover the background history of Armistice Day; Science classes document the program in photos, videos and the school web page; math classes design spreadsheets of West Virginia's veterans service, school clubs provide speakers, decorations; the band and chorus prepare the music; the High School ROTC, Women' Club and other community organizations give their support. With the support of school and community, the Veterans Homecoming continues as a very special community ceremony and celebration.

Challenged Student Conditions

Physically challenged, mentally and educationally challenged students can be service providers by:

- ~including all in the planning
- ~making the program area accessible to all
- ~acting as greeters to the veterans
- ~writing letters of invitation to veterans
- ~infusing into the total school population
- ~working with technology and video teams

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Resources

- ~a facility to hold the program
- ~supplies for decorations, artwork, publicity
- ~video equipment and computer equipment
- ~military equipment if possible
- ~funding
- ~reception supplies and food

Timeline

September

- ~Select a date for the program
- ~Inform local VFW
- ~Ask the WV National Guard to bring large equipment to school
- ~Gather data and addresses of veterans
- ~Plan the program
- ~Ask Jr ROTC to present colors
- ~Ask the Women's Club to help with the reception

October

- ~Create a daily checklist for the completion of all committee work
- ~Teachers and staff incorporate activities into the plans
- ~Plan method for video and other documentation
- ~Make a timetable
- ~Schedule practice times for speakers and others
- ~Invite media for coverage

November

- ~Decorate for the day
- ~Have everything set up for the program
- ~Have the program
- ~Have a reception

Reflections

- ~Share ideas, feelings and discussions about the event and the events leading up to the program
- ~Students will publish the event on the school WebPages
- ~Interview as many participants as possible

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Celebration

- ~Show video of the program at adviser/advisee time to all
- ~Give the veterans an opportunity to obtain a video of the program
- ~Award those who participated
- ~Display a photomural of the event
- ~Have a reception for all

Contact Information

Daisey Holley
Sissonville Middle School
8316 Old Mill Road
Sissonville, WV 25320
(304) 348-1993
dholley@access.k12.wv.us
Kanawha County