

September 21, 2018

Dear 8th Grade Parents,

This year, your student will have the opportunity to demonstrate all of the skills learned at ESMS by completing the Middle Years Programme “Community Project.” Our 8th grade students will all take action to help create a better world. ESMS and the IB Organization believe that the Community Project is crucial to holistic education because it “focuses on community and service, encouraging students to explore their right and responsibility to implement service as action in the community.” It allows students to investigate long-term, in-depth inquiry by identifying a need, focusing on a community, and acting upon student-created solutions.

The Community Project is supervised by a faculty member and students will receive guidance from their Design teacher on Mondays during the first semester. Currently, students are working on identifying a need, choosing to help a specific community, and developing their plans for action. Before the presentations in April, students will be working to complete the action, document the process and results, and reflect. Students may choose to work alone, or in groups of 2 to 3 students. Every student, including those choosing to work in groups, must document their process along the way in a Process Journal. The Process Journal may be electronic or written out by hand. The purpose of the Process Journal is to keep track of the student’s inquiry, action, and reflection by documenting the student’s brainstorms, photographs, interviews, videos, research, reflections, etc.

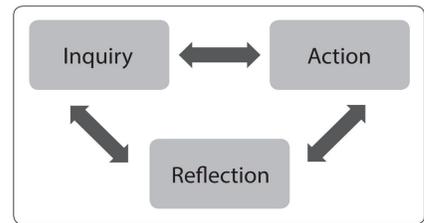


Figure 2

Work will need to be completed outside of school. However, each student’s supervisor, will hold at least three meetings to help assist and guide students and time will be allocated to the Community Project on Mondays during the first semester in your student’s Design class. In order to make the Community Project a reality, students should consider the following:

- Where did your inspiration come from for the Community Project?
- Which community you intend to help? Who will benefit?
- How do you intend to help them? What is the "action" you will do?
- How will you document your involvement in the Process Journal? (i.e., video, photos, transcript of interview, etc.)
- What are your plans to achieve this goal?
- What materials & information might you need?
- How might you present your completed Community Project in April?

The table below illustrates some examples and non-examples of the MYP Community Project.

MYP Community Projects	NOT MYP Community Projects
Recognizing the issue of cyberbullying among the school community, students raise awareness through an information campaign -or- instigate change in the disciplinary procedures through negotiations with stakeholders.	Volunteering at an Assisted Living facility
MYP Community Projects	NOT MYP Community Projects
Realizing that some homeless individuals are children, students gather statistics of children living on the streets in the local community. They interview authorities and research the causes and effects of homelessness for children, ultimately holding a toy drive donating them to shelters for women and children.	Participating in a beach clean-up day organized by the city
Researching the nutritional value of lunches offered in the school cafeteria, collecting data and opinions from students and reporting the findings to the cafeteria staff and school district personnel with the intent of improving food quality for students.	Donating money online to a charity

Although the Community Project will not bear weight on your child’s academic GPA, **this requirement will be contingent upon participation in the 8th grade promotion ceremony and participating in the 8th grade trip to Knott’s Berry Farm in June.** All of the work (inquiry, action, and reflection) will be completed by April 15. During the week of April 25, students will present their projects to a class of students and display their projects at Open House.

You are invited to attend the MYP Community Project Parent Information Presentation on Thursday, October 4, 2018 at 6:00pm in Bulldog Hall if you would like additional information. For guidance throughout the year, please visit MYP Community Project on PowerSchool Learning.

We look forward to seeing how our 8th graders can make a difference!

Ms. Crystal Winner
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MYP Community Project

Please sign below stating that each of you have read, understand, and agree to the terms of the MYP Community Project for the 2018-2019 school year. Students should **return this form to their Design teacher by Monday, September 28, 2018.**

Student Name (Print)

Student Signature

Date

Parent Name (Print)

Parent Signature