

Resources for Infusing a Global Perspective Across the Curriculum

WHO: K-12 Teachers

WHEN: February 4, 2009

TIME: 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm (Dinner provided)

WHERE: Ionia County ISD

COST: FREE

Media with Purpose I - Workshop

WHO: Secondary Education Teachers

WHEN: February 23, 2009

TIME: 8:30 am to 3:30pm (Lunch Provided)

WHERE: Ionia County ISD

COST: FREE

Workshops count as 1 of 4 chances to win classroom technology



HURRY!
Sign Up for these Workshops Today!
www.ioniaisd.org



Volume 4, Issue 2

February 2009



IONIA COUNTY INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Voices For Service Learning

BARACK OBAMA: NEW PRESIDENT, NEW VISION ON SERVICE LEARNING

A Lifetime of Service

Obama began his career by moving to the South Side of Chicago to direct the Developing Communities Project. Together with a coalition of ministers, Obama set out to improve living conditions in poor neighborhoods plagued by crime and high unemployment. After graduating from law school, Obama passed up lucrative law firm jobs to head Project Vote, which helped register 150,000 new African American voters in Chicago, the highest number ever registered in a single local effort.

Obama's Plan

In Obama's speech in Colorado Springs, CO, he spoke on national service and service learning. Obama cites service as having had an immeasurable effect on his life, helping him to discover himself and his place in the larger story of America. Obama addresses his plan to integrate service learning, saying:

"Finally, we need to integrate service into education, so that young Americans are called upon and prepared to be active citizens.

Just as we teach math and writing, arts and athletics, we need to teach young Americans to take citizenship seriously. Study after study shows that students who serve do better in school, are more likely to go to college, and more likely to maintain that service as adults. So when I'm President, I will set a goal for all American middle and high school

students to perform 50 hours of service a year, and for all college students to perform 100 hours of service a year. This means that by the time you graduate college, you'll have done 17 weeks of service.

We'll reach this goal in several ways. At the middle and high school level, we'll make federal assistance conditional on school districts developing service programs, and give schools resources to offer new service opportunities. At the community level, we'll develop public-private partnerships so students can serve more outside the classroom."

Obama encourages American citizens to rise to the occasion, and accept the call to service, saying, "Loving your country must mean accepting your responsibility to do your part to change it. If you do, your life will be richer, and our country stronger."

Integrate Service into Learning

- Obama will develop national guidelines for service learning and will give schools better tools both to develop programs and to document student experience.
- Obama will expand the YouthBuild program, which gives disadvantaged youth the chance to complete their high school education, learn valuable skills and build affordable housing in their communities.
- Obama will establish a new American Opportunity Tax Credit that is worth \$4,000 a year in exchange for 100 hours of public service a year.

February Service Learning Project Ideas

Valentines Day, Feb. 14th

Make Valentines Day cards for elders in the community and then deliver them to a local rest home or to the homes of elders in need of a visit and a gift.



Random Acts of Kindness Week, Feb 9th - 15th

Random Acts of Kindness Week focuses on the spirit of hope and goodness. It is a springboard for action. A time to be open, to act upon thoughts of generosity that arise spontaneously from your heart. Just notice what happens as kindness ripples out! The week is an invitation for individuals, schools, community groups, service clubs, businesses, health institutions, schools and churches to join hearts and hands to create a better world. This would be a great time to educate others on the importance and opportunities of service learning within schools and the community.



Presidents Day, Feb 16th

Celebrate Presidents Day by learning about our past presidents as well as learning about the democratic process. A great way to teach civic engagement in the classroom is by setting up a kids voting program. Research has found that voting is a habit that must be learned early. By implementing a kids voting program, students learn about the voting process and civic responsibility, and will more likely become informed and civic-minded adults who will take an active role in the democratic process.



Curriculum Specific Ideas:

PE & Health

- Get heart smart, have your students create a cardio plan they can share with their parents, elderly, or peers. Ask writing teachers to have them create a writing piece to persuade others to eat healthy and exercise that they pass out to the local library.

Social Studies

- Learn about different cultural heroes in American history, create a wall of fame and have your students come with different ways we can carry on the legacies of the heroes.

Math

- Celebrate staying healthy by having your students map out a walking route around the community. Design a 1-mile/3 mile/5 mile route. Convert into feet, inches, etc.

Science

- Grow bulbs or roots. Elementary students can learn about botany and plant life cycles as they grow bulbs or roots into flowers or plants. The flowers or plants can be given to people residing in a local homeless shelter, nursing home or hospital or can be placed throughout the school.



Design a Postage Stamp for Black History Month

Creating commemorative postage stamp designs is a good way for students to celebrate Black History Month and the inauguration of Barack Obama as our 44th president. In 1940, the first stamp issued in honor of a black American was released. The image was of educator Booker T. Washington.

Since then, many black Americans' lives and contributions have been celebrated on stamps. Some of them include Harriet Tubman, abolitionist; Billie Holiday, jazz singer; Ralph Bunche, statesman and Nobel Peace Prize recipient; Martin Luther King, Jr., minister and civil rights activist; Jackie Robinson, baseball player, and Madam C.J. Walker, entrepreneur.



Before beginning the design work, students need to gather information about African Americans and events that are important in their history.

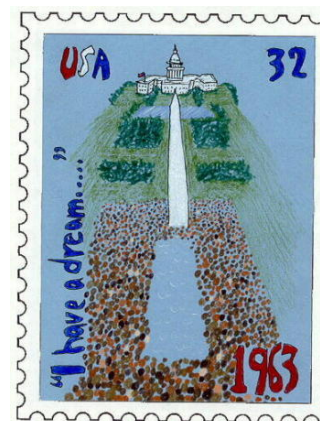
Project:

After doing the research on the proper format for stamps along with exploring black history, students are ready to design the stamps. Have students create their stamps on plain copy paper. There are some basic elements that should be included on the stamps. They are as follows: USA, 42, the name of the person, place, or event, and the image. Have students draw their designs with colored pencils, pen and ink, or markers.

Action/Reflection:

After the students have finished their stamps, display them around the room or even in the hallway. Use the stamps as a way to educate other students in the school about black history.

Make sure to talk with your students about what they learned and the importance of remembering the achievements of African Americans in this country.



Trivia:

A group known as the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee composed of educators, artists, and other experts in their fields recommend subjects and designs to the Postmaster General. In addition, they select the artists who will execute the designs. The following are a few of the Criteria for Stamp Subject Selection which the committee uses in selecting themes and subjects:

1. In general, only American or American-related subjects will be featured.
2. Portraits of living people are forbidden.
3. Commemorative stamps honoring individuals usually will be issued on their birthday and no sooner than ten years after the individual's death.
4. Anniversaries of important historical events will be commemorated in multiples of 50 years.
5. Statehood anniversaries will be considered only at intervals of 50 years from the date of the state's entry into the Union.
6. Subjects which have been portrayed on stamps are eligible only every ten years.