



THE MISSION OF THE GATES CHILI SCHOOL/COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

is to actively recruit families and community members to enrich the educational experiences of our students, promote student achievement, and strengthen family/school/community ties.

OUR HISTORY— A SOURCE OF PRIDE

There is long history of volunteerism associated with the Gates Chili School District. Over the years, parents and community members have willingly contributed their time and talents in an effort to promote student learning, help with clerical tasks that free teachers to provide more direct services to their students and assist each school with its clubs and activities. It is clear that without volunteers the educational environment afforded our District's students would be diminished.

In April of 1979, Dr. Arlene McShea and Nancy Westervelt developed and proposed a Volunteer Community Program. The program began in the elementary schools in the 1980-81 academic year. In 1984, the program was expanded to the Middle School, and then the High School in 1985. We are one of the few districts in Monroe County to staff a Volunteer Coordinator.

BEING INVOLVED IN YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

The results of recent research are very clear: When parents are actively involved in their children's education, they do better in school. *The academic level of the parents, their socioeconomic level, and their ethnic or racial origin are not determining factors for academic success.* It is essential for parents to have a positive attitude regarding education, and to demonstrate trust that their children can do well.

HOW VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

Children benefit more from school when families and community become involved in the educational process. The involvement of parents in the school's efforts seems to enable students to display an increased interest in school, higher academic achievement levels, more positive self-image and greater appreciation for the value of education. Additionally, volunteers benefit the schools they serve by improving school and community relations. Volunteerism in our schools increases understanding of how schools operate, respect for teachers and administrators and overall communication.

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OUR DISTRICT MISSION:

“TOGETHER WE TEACH AND INSPIRE EXCELLENCE FOR ALL LEARNERS.”

This mission is driven by values that guide decision-making and behavior expectations for everyone. We define those values as “The Spartan Way”: *Respect, Responsibility, Compassion and Hard Work.*

Our volunteers exemplify the Spartan Way every day by:

- * Respecting the authority of the school and the Gates Chili Code of Conduct, always remembering that we are setting an example for our students.
- * Upholding the responsibility of maintaining the confidentiality of school matters, never discussing these matters or information concerning students with anyone but designated school staff.
- * Expressing compassion for all students by not favoring one side or party more than another, or allowing personal feelings enter into volunteer work.
- * Coming in with a positive attitude even though volunteering is often hard work.

GUIDELINES FOR VOLUNTEERS

- “ Attend orientation and in-service training sessions.
- “ During school hours, check in and out of your building’s Main Office, wear your printed “Volunteer” badge while you are volunteering. Be prepared to show photo ID each time you are in the building.
- “ Commit to a regular schedule of service, as appropriate to the volunteer position you are assigned.
- “ Be prompt, dependable and notify your school when you are unable to be present.
- “ Work under the direction of your assigned staff person, recognizing that instructing, supervising, grading, and disciplining students are school staff responsibilities.
- “ Respect the confidentiality of all information that relates to students and staff.
- “ Maintain a professional attitude with respect to conduct and dress code.
- “ Be familiar with and follow the Gates Chili Code of Conduct.
- “ Be aware of and comply with school policies, especially concerning the use of electronic devices.
- “ Understand and use the appropriate channels of communication for comments and suggestions.
- “ Maintain a caring and supportive role with students while keeping a professional attitude.