



THE RED OAKS SCHOOL

The Red Oaks School is a private, independent day school in Morristown, NJ, featuring two internationally-acclaimed academic programs: Montessori and International Baccalaureate.

Established in 1964, The Red Oaks School is a Pre-K through Grade 8 school dedicated to the education of the whole child. Beginning in pre-school through Grade 4, the school is an American Montessori certified school following the development of essential skills already within each child for a lifetime of success. For the Middle School years, grades 5-8, the curriculum is an accredited International Baccalaureate program held to the strictest international standards. The program encourages both personal and academic achievement, challenging students to excel in their studies as well as in their personal development. Both curricula focus on service as well as academics, and here are some of the community service projects the Red Oaks students have participated in this year.

Community Service Projects:

The Neighborhood House: In the late fall, students collected snack and first aid items for the Preschool Program run by The Neighborhood House, which has supported children and families in Morristown for more than 100 years. They are currently part of the Cornerstone Family Programs and are described as “a pillar of diversity and cross-cultural positivity.”

Bridges: This past fall students collected clothes (gloves, mittens, scarves, hats, socks) for Bridges, which assists the local homeless population.

Charity Water: Last spring, the children decorated water carafes and sold the gifts to parents to raise money for a well dug through Charity Water, which builds freshwater wells in Africa. The kindergarteners wrote about why they focused on this effort for this cause and then made a poster displaying their writings.

Speedwell Clean Up: The Red Oaks Middle School continued their proud tradition of taking part in Morristown's annual town-wide clean up event. Bravo to this year's Middle School students (and their families!) who were such an integral part of this focus on community action. Students spent their morning hard at work cleaning areas around Speedwell Lake and at our neighbor's historic Willow Hall!

Interfaith Food Pantry: The Red Oaks Middle School collects food yearly for the Interfaith Food Pantry. This year, students collected and donated over 1,200 pounds of food and over 15 turkeys for the community.



Middle School Students at Red Oaks are required to do 25 hours of community service each school year. In addition, the Community Project is the capstone of the IB program, through which 8th grade students match their passions to local issues and develop a comprehensive plan for community service. Check out a summary of some recent projects below:

For the Food Insecure in Morris County: This foursome decided to unite their passions for gardening and building to create a community garden at the Speedwell Campus. The garden produced over 100 pounds of fresh food for the local food bank last summer. It has added aesthetic appeal to the school grounds, and has provided students with future community service opportunities. After careful planning students have created a beautiful and functioning garden that will continue in the years to come!



Improving School Lunches: This student shared his observations regarding food quality with Red Oaks administration which helped to confirm the need for a change. Red Oaks now has a new lunch program! No Fuss Lunch is a lunch delivery service that features fresh, healthy, nut-free food options without undesirable ingredients like high fructose corn syrup and MSG. No Fuss Lunches are currently being served to Red Oaks students, and the program is a hit!

Tech Support that Works: This student wanted to find a way to implement a technology-based solution to assist in daily school life. He applied his knowledge and research to create a comprehensive Tech Support Guide on PowerSchool Learning. Easily accessible to all Middle School students (and staff!), the guide features many helpful tips and tricks, and includes troubleshooting for Chromebooks, printers, projectors, and speakers!

Cystic Fibrosis Awareness: This student wanted to continue his lifelong journey of raising awareness for Cystic Fibrosis and funding for a cure. Inspired by his best friend and cystic fibrosis patient, he expanded the Great Strides Walk for CF program, previously based in New York City, to include New Jersey. Along with creating informative t-shirts and memorabilia, he led a Red Oaks team to join Stanley's City Slickers and march for a cure in Morristown.

Supporting Connections with The Elderly: Students chose to focus on communicating with the elderly in America working with the staff at Arbor Terrace, an assisted living center in Morris Plains, NJ. After learning of the residents' need for more recreational activities, the duo arranged to host a Bingo Night. The evening was so successful that students happily returned a few weeks later for another round of Bingo and conversation.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: This student wanted to raise money for Livingston Neighbors Helping Neighbors, a non-profit organization that supports residents in need. A meeting with their board soon led to the idea of a tennis tournament fundraiser. The student reserved tennis courts, made promotional flyers, created scenario analysis for team registrations, and solicited prizes for the tournament. Since the beginning of the project, \$4,900 has been raised through tournament entry fees and donations!

St. Hubert's: As a passionate animal lover, this student wanted to raise money for St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center in Madison. She went on to independently organize two bake sales at Red Oaks and raise over \$500 doing all of the baking herself.