

September 24, 2021

Dear 8th Grade Families,

We are looking forward to our 8th Grade Community Service Week! It is a learning experience we hope will inspire your children to take advantage of other opportunities to volunteer their time and talent. This note is to share some important deadlines and information.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PARTNERS

In previous years, this program has spread out to more than two dozen St. Louis area agencies. But this year we have decided to keep the class together — in part because of the pandemic, and in part to give our 8th graders more opportunity to build relationships with one another. Accordingly, we will work with three community partners: Beyond Housing, U City in Bloom, and the Kirkwood Parks and Recreation Department. Early next week, we will hold an orientation session during the school day so that our 8th graders can learn about our partners and what we will be doing with them.

Even though you have already completed a Burroughs permission slip, we also need you to **complete permission forms for each of our partners no later than Tuesday, September 28 using the following links:**

- Beyond Housing: <https://www.volgistics.com/ex/portal.dll/ap?ap=1512181562>
- U City in Bloom: <https://forms.gle/YGvVsKJGBakeQTGK6>
- Kirkwood Parks and Recreation Department: <https://kirkwoodmo.seamlessdocs.com/f/minorwaiver>

IMPORTANT DETAILS

During their four days of community service, 8th graders

- will not have homework, other than to journal about their experience
- should be at school by 8 am each day, so that we can travel by school bus to our daily destinations
- will return to campus by 3:30 pm, after which they are free to leave for the day
- must adhere to the following community service guidelines:
 - Dress Code: We will work outdoors on various gardening and beautification projects. We also will be working indoors preparing space for renovations ... SO DRESS TO GET DIRTY AND DRESS FOR THE WEATHER (layers!). Specifically, long-sleeved shirts and long pants are recommended (no shorts, no midriffs, no spaghetti straps) and closed-toe shoes are a **must** (tennis shoes or boots are

- recommended). Work gloves will be provided (but students may bring their own). On Wednesday, we will roller skate, so everyone must have socks that day.
- Bring a sack lunch (no peanut butter or nuts) and a refillable water bottle.
 - May NOT bring cell phones or other electronic devices.

All COVID-19 safety protocols we adhere to at school will be implemented. Students will be masked when indoors and while on the bus. We will remain masked during outdoor activities when distancing is not possible. Our partners have safety protocols in place as well, which we will follow.

We are excited to engage in these opportunities for new growth and transformation, not only in the literal sense of the work we will be doing, but also in what we hope for your students as they nurture their relationships with classmates and interest in volunteering and service.

[Here's our current itinerary](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us. In the meantime, thank you so much for your support.

Sincerely,

[Linda Churchwell-Varga](#)

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