The Community Project

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR 8TH GRADER



Project Overview

- **What it is:** A student-centered, service-oriented project where students explore their interests and make a positive impact in the community.
- **Steps:**
  - Investigate a community need
  - Plan a project
  - Take action
  - Reflect on learning and impact
- **Types of projects:**
  - Direct service (e.g., reading to younger students, working at a community garden and donating produce)
  - Indirect service (e.g., fundraising, making cards for hospital patients)
  - Advocacy (e.g., awareness campaigns such as starting a kindness challenge at school)
  - Research (e.g., surveys, studies such as Researching how much trash the school makes in a week)
- **Why it matters:** Builds critical thinking, collaboration, empathy, and connects to the IB mission of creating a better, more peaceful world.
- **Outcome:** Students keep a process journal on their Arise Schoology page, participate in service as action, and present their project at the end.

Project FAQs

Will my student need to do this project after school?
Students will complete the investigation and planning part of the project during their Arise period at school. Some projects, like awareness campaigns, may be completed entirely during Arise. However, many projects will require students to organize their time outside of school. Students should consider their ability to commit to work beyond the school day.

Is this an individual or group project?
Students can work individually or in groups of up to three. Students are encouraged to consider who shares their enthusiasm for the project, who they work well with, and whose strengths complement their own, while also reflecting on whether they want to be a risk-taker (an important learner profile attribute) by partnering with someone they don't know well. They also must share an Arise period to work together.

How long will the project take?
The project timeline varies depending on the student's idea and approach, but students will have several weeks during their Arise periods to complete the investigation and planning. Additional time outside of school may be needed for certain projects.

What kind of support will students receive?
Students will receive guidance from their Arise teacher throughout the project, including help with research, planning, and presentation. Teachers will also help students set goals and manage their time effectively.

When will they present the project?
Projects will be shared on March 3rd at Mount Garfield and be open for families to come. More information to come.

Approaches to Learning (ATLs)

The Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills are essential for the Community Project because they give students the tools to succeed in every stage of the process. As a culminating project, students draw on skills such as research (to investigate community needs), communication (to share ideas and collaborate), self-management (to stay organized and meet deadlines), and critical and creative thinking (to design and carry out solutions). The project highlights how these skills, practiced throughout the MYP, prepare students to take meaningful action and make a positive impact in their community.

