

2017-2018 Academic Year

Dear Parent:

This year we are looking forward to another year of our Senior Social Studies Service Learning Experience – the Learning Through Community Action Program (LCAP). This program involves high school seniors in their community to help them learn more about how the community provides for our social needs and about why volunteers and informed citizens are needed in the community.

LCAP offers the students two options by which they become involved in the community. For those interested in investigating current community issues such as “Why is Schaumburg growing so fast?”, “Can homeowner associations really work?”, or “What should Hoffman Estates do to develop its historic roots?” are possible topics. This is a research-interview project. In this option, students use traditional research skills and learn interview techniques, as they must interview at least 4 experts on their chosen topic. The findings are presented after 10 weeks of research in a formal typed paper complete with footnotes and bibliography.

For those interested in contributing time and effort to help others, there is a volunteer alternative. The students provide regular, reliable volunteer efforts for a 10-week period to a community agency. The students select the agency they wish to help from a pre-approved list of agencies that the LCAP coordinator has compiled. The volunteer must contribute to one of the pre-approved agencies. These agencies know of the Conant LCAP project, know what they must do in evaluating students, and know that we expect the students to have a meaningful experience as a result of their work. These agencies include park districts, day-care centers, mental health facilities, homes for the elderly, governmental agencies, etc. For more than 40 years, about 18,600 students have contributed approximately 512,000 hours to their community. In fact, LCAP won the 1986 Governor’s Hometown Award for its service to the community. Also, LCAP was chosen as the Schaumburg Volunteer Organization of the Year in 1991 and nominated in 2002.

When the students involved in the volunteer option finish their 10 week commitment, they turn in a time card, a reflective journal, and will make a short oral presentation to their class. Students opting for the local research project will present their findings during a presentation, too. These 2 components also meet the ISBE Civics Mandate.

We recognize the Learning Through Community Action Program as a serious commitment by the student to their communities. We have found that this program is well received by both the community and our students. If you have any questions, call either your student’s teacher or me at (847) 755-3826.

Sincerely,

Eric R. Jacobsen
ejacobsen@d211.org
Coordinator of Learning Through Community Action Program