

Literacy in Action Through Service Learning

Gulf High School

Principal: Thomas E. Imerson

Reading Coach: Victoria Mudry

Why Engage In Service Learning

- ◆ Increases students' motivation to learn
- ◆ Helps acquire academic skills and knowledge
- ◆ Increases school attendance

Why Engage In Service Learning

- ◆ Has a positive effect on personal development
- ◆ Decreases likelihood of “risk” behaviors
- ◆ Improves interpersonal development and ability to relate to culturally diverse groups

Why Engage In Service Learning

- ◆ Builds understanding of potential careers
- ◆ Builds mutual respect
- ◆ Improves overall school climate

Why Engage In Service Learning

- ◆ Promotes civic responsibility
- ◆ Promotes social responsibility
- ◆ Improves relationships between communities and schools

Components of Service Learning

- ◆ Planning/Preparation/Design
- ◆ Action
- ◆ Reciprocity/Collaboration
- ◆ Demonstration
- ◆ Reflection
- ◆ Evaluation

Planning/Preparation/Design

- ◆ Reading Coach: trained teachers and students
- ◆ Pre-assessment
- ◆ Service Learning Interest Inventory
- ◆ Introduce Elements of Service Learning

Reciprocity/Collaboration

- ◆ Youth Empowerment
- ◆ Brainstorm Ideas
- ◆ Contact schools to determine needs
- ◆ Character Education
- ◆ Identify skills in need of development
- ◆ Pasco County School Board assistance
- ◆ Career related for the high school student

Action/Demonstration

- ◆ Community-Based Learning
 - ◆ Direct, indirect, and research-based
- ◆ GHS students did presentations - small group & whole group
- ◆ 10 elementary schools served

Reflection

- ◆ Ongoing (private)
 - ◆ Journals
 - ◆ Oral reflections
 - ◆ Informal discussion
 - ◆ Celebrations
- ◆ Presentations (public)
 - ◆ Display boards
 - ◆ Local media coverage
 - ◆ Book donations

Evaluation

Improved attendance in FCAT after-school tutoring (compared to attendance without service-learning)

Motivation

Engagement

Relevant learning

Improved community involvement

Inter-generational communication

Outcomes

- ◆ FCAT related
 - ◆ 58% of involved students passed the FCAT
 - ◆ 75% had increase in post-FCAT scores
 - ◆ Fluency scores increased 75%
 - ◆ FCAT after-school tutoring attendance increased by 90%

Special School Awards

- ◆ 5 Star School Award
- ◆ Golden School Award
- ◆ Silver School Award

- ◆ Only school in Pasco County to receive all three state awards.

The Future

Research

Billig, S. H.,(2000) *Impacts of Service-Learning on Youth, Schools, and Communities: Research on K-12 School-Based Service-Learning, 1990-1999*. WK Kellogg Foundation.