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PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Volunteering in MPS

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Volunteering in MPS

- Volunteer engagement mission
 - Maximize the academic learning and personal growth for all students by having volunteers assist teachers, provide enriching experiences and contribute to safe and welcoming learning communities.
- Volunteers options
 - **On-going**, generally at a school, or
 - **One-time**, assisting at district-wide events.

The Need For Volunteers

- Volunteers complement the work our staff already do
- Engage the Milwaukee community and show off our success
- Volunteers change the ratio of adults to students in classrooms
 - Help students stay on task and increase student exposure to new ideas, new people, and new opportunities.
 - Serve as another caring adult available to students.
- Provide additional support at district-wide events to ensure logistics run smoothly and excellent customer service is upheld

On-Going Volunteers



- Per Board Policy 7.31, background checks are required for “those volunteers who provide services on a regular and on-going basis or more than five hours a week.”
- 2,867 volunteer applicants in the 2015-16 school year
 - 1,760 volunteer applicants to-date for the 2016-17 school year

On-Going Volunteers

- On-going volunteers
 - Provide additional classroom support
 - Help in lunch rooms, main offices, parent centers, etc.
 - Engage students in literacy activities
 - Partner with external organizations, including but not limited to Big Brothers Big Sisters, INSPIRE, Make a Difference WI and Interfaith



One-time Volunteer Opportunities

- Volunteers can participate in a number of one-time, district wide opportunities or service projects
- Corporate volunteers play an integral role supporting one-time events and projects



One-time Opportunities Examples



- Daddy Daughter Dance
 - Assist with set-up, food service, logistics
- Read Across America Day
 - Read to and participate in conversations with students
- STEM Fair/Expo
 - Assist with logistics, registration and set-up

Service Volunteer Opportunities

- Service project process
- GE Community Service Day



How to become a Volunteer

- On-going Volunteers
 - Online and paper volunteer applications
 - Orientation
- One-time Volunteers
 - Online registration, either through the MPS Volunteer webpage or through a volunteer website, such as Volunteers United
 - Work with a school leader



Volunteer Eligibility

- Volunteers applicants come from throughout the area and from diverse backgrounds
- Background Checks
 - Although background checks are not required for one-time opportunities or service projects, regular volunteers must pass a criminal background check
- Parents/guardians who do not pass a background check still have many opportunities to engage in their child's education

Volunteer Program Improvements

- New volunteer software
- New training for schools and district staff
- Refinement and documentation of standard operating procedures
- Greater emphasis on volunteering community-wide
- Service project needs assessment
- Development of best practices for volunteer engagement

United Way Volunteer Engagement

- Chair of United Way Volunteer Engagement Committee
 - Greater integration of volunteer efforts and partnership between MPS's and UW
 - Community School involvement
- Expanded outreach and opportunity for MPS staff to get involved



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