

Pottstown Revitalization Planning Project

The revitalization project is an excellent opportunity for students to get a first hand look at how their community government works. It is also an exciting way of promoting community relations for the school district.

Curriculum/State Standard

Curriculum Standards for Social Studies (National Council for Social Studies):

X-Civic Ideals & Practices; II-Time, Continuity, & Change; VI-Power, Authority & Governance; IX- Global Connections

Overview

The students spend 2 days shadowing community leaders. This experience is valuable for understanding the commitment of town officials to the upkeep of Pottstown. Also, the project provides the students with the opportunity to practice formal presentation skills.

Objectives

- The students will explain the set-up, powers, and infrastructure of the Pottstown Borough government, Pottstown School Board, and Chamber of Commerce.
- The students will career shadow a Pottstown borough official, department manager, chamber of commerce board member, during a two-day period and evaluate their specific duties and contributions to the borough.
- The students will create a PowerPoint presentation summarizing their career shadowing experiences.
- The students will implement a class wide Downtown Pottstown Revitalization Planning Project based on the observations of each student.

Continued on the back...

5-12

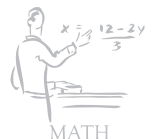
GRADE LEVEL



ARTS



LANGUAGE



MATH

Misc

MISCELLANEOUS



SCIENCE



HISTORY



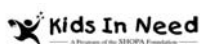
SOCIAL STUDIES

10

DAYS

\$860

TOTAL BUDGET



THIS WINNING LESSON PLAN WAS SUBMITTED BY:

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Pottstown School District
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“Pottstown Revitalization” project continued...

Materials

CD-RW discs & drive for computer, PowerPoint software, various construction materials including: foam presentation board, construction paper, glue, markers, crayons, paints, overhead transparencies, toothpicks, tape, presentation portfolios, 3 side organizer/binder (for note taking, etc., during shadowing experience)

Readiness Activity

The class participated in a walking tour of Pottstown Historical Sites as a prerequisite of the social studies curriculum. Afterwards, they participated in a panel discussion with Mayor Anne Jones and invited community members.

Strategies/Activities

From political science curriculum, complete a mini-research into local government services and evaluate their importance to the town of Pottstown through informal discussions. Class will come to a consensus as to the most essential services to the community.

Co-operative learning activity regarding economic and social problems of the urban community. Students will complete writing assignments investigating various solutions to these community needs.

Students will be given community contact for shadowing piece. They must write a formal letter requesting permission and complete a follow-up telephone call. For two school days, the students will career shadow, taking notes, asking appropriate questions, and discerning the duties and powers of each position as it pertains to the everyday running of the Pottstown Borough.

Students will create a power point presentation summarizing their experiences and present to the class. They will use PowerPoint Presentation Scoring Rubric as a guide.

The classes will work together to complete a Downtown Pottstown Revitalization Planning Project, implementing their individual experiences. They will determine a plan of action and determine the costs, benefits, and possible problems with solutions of a large-scale renovation plan. The ultimate goal is to create an area that will be the catalyst for change in Pottstown in three areas: social, economic, and cultural gains.

Culminating Activity

Students evaluated each project and determined the best project that would be presented to a panel of community leaders, school leaders, and faculty members. The final project was discussed with the class by the panel, and a question and answer session followed regarding the project and its feasibility in Pottstown.

Evaluation

Assessment of this project was three-fold: informal assessment through teacher observation and evaluation; writing and performance rubrics; and a panel of faculty, Pottstown business persons, and local government officials to evaluate the practical application of the Downtown Revitalization Planning Project.