

Missionary Moppets!

Bethany Christian Academy's mission statement is taken from Ellen G. White's book, Education, "To prepare productive Christian citizens for exemplary service to God and man in this world and for wider service and greater joy in the world to come."

It is extremely important that my students internalize these inspired words and earn the God-required status as service-oriented missionaries. The activities below are/were designed to foster the missionary spirit in each student as well as to provide opportunities for students to engage in missionary activities (service).

Standards: J2E 7.5, J2E 10.4, J2E 8.3, J2E 2.3, J2E 4.1, J2E 4.2

Phase 1- EXPLORATION

Students will discuss the service/ministry of the Master of missionaries, Jesus. Students will identify and research the following groups of missionaries:

- 1) Biblical (ex. Paul, Silas)
- 2) Historical (ex. Johnny Appleseed, St. Patrick)
- 3) Contemporary (Mother Theresa)

Students will select one missionary from each group and present a character sketch entitled, "A Day In The Life Of..." Students will dress as the character/missionary and have one object associated with him/her. Students will use Google searches to locate and research geographical areas of missionary service for selected individuals. Research findings will be used to create Missionary Map Quest pages as well as site banks for virtual field trips.

- 1) In cooperative groups, students will create lists of MQs (Missionary Qualities). Responses will be shared and lists will be posted around the room.
- 2) Teacher will select 4 MQs from posted lists and students will indicate which one they think is most important to be a missionary like Jesus by participating in 4 Corners activity. Responses will be shared and groups will use their MQ to create a commercial or "WANTED" poster (ex. instead of "Uncle Sam Wants You", "Jesus Wants You" or instead of "Wanted Dead Or Alive", "Missionary Wanted...Alive And Kicking") soliciting a missionary with that outstanding quality. Presentations will be video recorded and shared online with a neighboring Church School.
- 3) Students will participate in Ranking Activity using lists of MQs. (4 most important). Responses will be shared with partners in "Stand Up, Hands Up, Pair Up" activity.
- 4) Students will examine, discuss and summarize the classroom "Mission Vision" taken from Ellen G. White's, Desire of Ages: "When my love for the lost is the same as Jesus' love for the lost, His mission is complete in me and I am ready for eternity." Students will understand that missionary activity is a mandatory prelude for Jesus' return.

5) Students will complete T- Chart Activity- “What A Missionary Looks Like.” Responses will be shared and used to develop writing pieces entitled, “Missionary Spotted In Montgomery.” When pieces are presented, students will assume the roles of television news anchors.

6) Students will participate in “Round Robin” discussion of various mission fields/environments and the behaviors/activities that could be present in those fields/environments: home missionaries, classroom (school) missionaries, community missionaries, church missionaries. Students will create job applications for classroom missionaries, listed required qualities, habits, behavior, etc. Students will type finished products as a Microsoft Word document including clip art and print the products for distribution. Applications may be exchanged among students or distributed to students in other classrooms. Mock interviews may be held with students, or pastor of church may be invited to conduct interviews.

Phase 2 – ORIENTATION

1) Students will learn and sing songs with Missionary theme; ex. Missionary Volunteers, We Are Soldiers In The Army, I’m In the Lord’s Army.

2) Students will search for members in their churches who have had foreign mission experiences. Identified individuals will be invited to classroom as resource speakers. Visits will be recorded and used to create a digital “Missionary Manual.” Missionary songs will be added.

3) Teacher will contact student Missionaries at Oakwood University (NAPS), Southern University, Andrews University and Loma Linda University. Students will interview missionaries through live video chats via Skype. Students will have questions generated prior to Skype interviews. These interviews will be added to “Missionary Manual.”

Phase 3: ACTUALIZATION AND CELEBRATION

Students will bring church bulletins from their various churches and we will contact individuals on “Sick and Shut In” lists. We will also canvas the community surrounding the school for needs (e.g. yard cleaning, food and clothing needs). We will work in conjunction with the Community Service Department of the church and local Food Bank. After needs are assessed, visits will be scheduled at accepting homes in preparation for a classroom, “Missionary Marathon.”

On the day of the “Missionary Marathon,” students will be transported by bus to visit homes of sick, elderly and needy individuals. Students will pray and sing in each home. Food baskets will be delivered to the needy. The sick will receive cards (student created) containing scriptural encouragement and “cheer” baskets. The elderly will receive “Soup and Socks for Seniors” baskets along with CDs/DVDs created by students singing hymns or reading Bible stories and scriptures.

All visits during the “Missionary Marathon” will be recorded. Later, students will add music and create DVDs/Power Point Presentations to be shared during Personal Ministries segments or Christian Education Spotlights at local churches. The products DVDs/PPPs will be entitled, “A Day of Mission Moments.” The “Missionary Marathons” may be conducted four times a year (once a quarter). This past school year, parents accompanied us on some trips and were truly inspired. Our pastor, J.L.Watson, accompanied us as well, and the students were motivated and excited to have a popular missionary leading us in SERVICE!