

# Why not adopt a class?

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The Adopt-A-Project/Adopt-A-Grade program in Independent School District 361 will enable all grades from kindergarten to 12th to each "adopt" a class project. Each project will be big enough to involve every student in the grade. Once a grade has adopted a project, that project will then be "locked" into that grade every year. Students will move through the grades and will have the opportunity to participate in a different project every year.

To ensure that each project is properly organized and to give students the opportunity to meet and work with a variety of adults throughout the community, each grade will be adopted by an adult organization or combination of organizations. These adults will have goals of their own relating to

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ways to integrate the goals and lessons learned into their curriculum.

The biggest measurable benefit to the community will be the number of projects that will be done by students and adults that are not being done now. Tentative projects include: park cleanup, river and shoreline cleanup, fund raising for a kindergarten activity, fund raising for a scholarship and a project involving high school juniors with residents of the nursing home.

Other benefits will include a greater understanding among youths and adults. The opportunity for youths to meet adults and learn about their jobs and interests, and

decide what needs to be done to prepare for the project, what needs to be done to carry out a successful project and what needs to be done at the conclusion of the project to ensure that all goals were met. They will also ensure that students receive the recognition they deserve and that any changes for next year's project are noted.

Students will be involved in the planning, implementation and follow-up activities of every project. Their level of participation in planning will be dependent on their ages and abilities. Their level of participation will increase as they get older. The fact that students will be given the leadership roles in the projects will

be the responsibility of the adults that adopt a grade to provide this recognition. They, along with the students on the planning committee, will decide what form this recognition will take. A picnic, an awards dinner, or certificates of accomplishment are just a few of the suggestions that have been made so far. The adult group will also be responsible for any expenses involved in providing whatever form of recognition their planning committee decides upon. Expenses should be minimal.

It is hoped that students will develop many skills and attitudes during their project that will serve them well the rest of their lives. The ability to work with people of all age ranges, the ability to plan together, and celebrate together are important.

Adults will be encouraged to share experiences, job information and interests with the students in an