

Central Montessori School Service Learning and the Middle School Student

Central Montessori School has developed a four part service learning program: Volunteerism, Internships, Mentoring, and Entrepreneurship.

The Fundamental Needs of all Humans across Time and Space is a Montessori lesson that provides a framework for considering how all humans, no matter their nationality or when they live, share the same basic needs. The components of volunteerism, internship, mentorship, and entrepreneurship experiences inform students about many aspects of the construction of our society and the many ways individuals contribute to the development of our society.

Volunteerism- This is the first part of an excellent Service program. Upper elementary students are encouraged to volunteer both on and off campus. Volunteerism should continue throughout the Middle School years. Central recommends a minimum of 8 annual hours of volunteerism. If the any of these hours are collected through support of PAC events or any approved community venue, these hours may be applied to their family's annual V exchange.

Internship-Internships allow students to watch and learn the skills needed in order to be able to participate in society. First internships are on-campus and run five hours per day. Your child's teacher will help your child manage all aspects of this first internship: proposal writing, documentation, journal entry and thank you note. After completion of this internship, students are eligible to participate in off-campus business internships. Parents are asked to make arrangements at appropriate business site and provide transportation. Your child's teacher will provide on-going support and communications during the internship. Students are encouraged to initiate other community services throughout the year.

Mentor Relationship-Students are paired with a community mentor. This experience may last a short time, one year, or may last a life time. Parents and teachers work together to seek and secure a mentor for each student. Mentors are encouraged to enrich a student's life in all things great or small.

Entrepreneurship - Students call upon many of the skills they have already developed in order to imagine, create, and manage a small business: Business plan, public relations, human resources, and money management- profit and loss statements and reports, taxation, credit, reconciling books. Middle school students also participate in Central Market Day. They may make products such as hand crafts, cookies, etc. to sell at school. They keep all profit. Students work together to design notices, set prices, set up "stalls" and manage money exchange. They borrow a starting "bank" that they must repay from their earning. They must develop a short profit and loss statement and present reports to peers. Taxes are collected and put into the classroom fund to purchase an item that benefits everyone.