THE EDUCATION FUND

FOR EXCELLENCE IN MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2020-2021

Ideas With IMPACT

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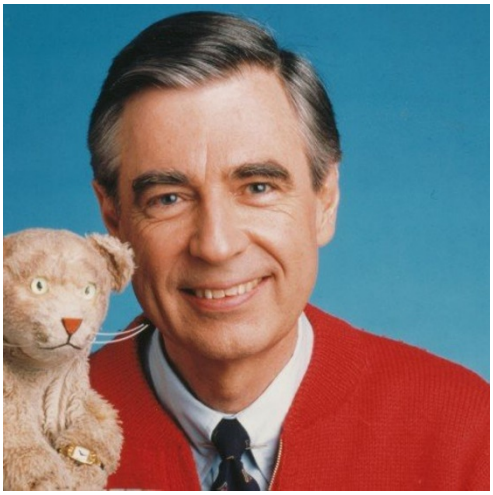
Be My Neighbor

“Be My Neighbor”



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Love Your Neighbor

Goals and Objectives

Currently, students are faced with a plethora of negative situations and actions by others in this world. Though there are advocates for children everywhere promoting goodness and kind acts, one person that exemplified the importance of kindness and acceptance was Mr. Rogers. The purpose of this project is to teach students who Mr. Rogers was and his legacy of tolerance and acceptance for others. The goal is to use the lessons students are learning in class to implement activities that would fulfill a "real-need" in their community (or somewhere else in the world) and put into practice, authentic, real-world solutions to helping others. "Mr. Rogers Neighborhood" gave children the opportunity to learn about acceptance, tolerance, kindness and that their feelings mattered. It also taught them the importance of "being a good neighbor" by interacting with various characters, all of which, had something to offer in terms of "real-life" dilemmas and how to cope and deal with them.

Whenever he saw a tragic event occur, Mr. Rogers mother would tell him "Look for the helpers. There are always helpers." Through the use of this project, within the scope of meaningful activities, the goal and objective is that students will develop a sense of value for themselves and learn, that no matter what is occurring in their own lives or the lives of others that may seem tragic, "there are helpers" in the world and these helpers include themselves. During the school year, as students work on “simple acts” like writing to their “neighbors” (other classmates, teachers, family members, siblings….) and sending “post-cards”, creating a “hurricane survival kit” for their families and others, being actively involved in collecting and donating items to those in need, students will foster a sense of humility, value for decency, civility and compassion for others. All vital in being a neighbor.

Florida Standards

SS.5.C.2.5 - Identify ways good citizens go beyond basic civic and political responsibilities to improve government and society.

SS.5.G.1.2 - Use latitude and longitude to locate places.

SC.5.E.7.7 - Design a family preparedness plan for natural disasters and identify the reasons for having such a plan.

SC.5.N.1.1 - Define a problem, use appropriate reference materials to support scientific understanding, plan and carry out scientific investigations of various types such as: systematic observations, experiments requiring the identification of variables, collecting and organizing data, interpreting data in charts, tables, and graphics, analyze information, make predictions, and defend conclusions.

Course Outline/Overview

Students in 4th and 5th Grade will participate in the “Be My Neighbor” project inspired by Mr. Rogers legacy of showing kindness to the world. They will do this by transforming what they are learning in class to a “real-world” situation whereby they will help others in their community (including abroad) solve problems, especially due to a natural disaster. One example is by students getting involved in donating items that will make an impact and difference in the lives of others in need. Initially the project began in my classroom, then expanded to a school-wide initiative. As students began sending postcards home, then to their “neighbors” in the school, a “kindness” camp was developed among the faculty and staff and they began sharing and sending their own “uplifting postcards” with encouraging messages to each other. This project was relevant to the Social and Emotional Learning component guided by the District’s Framework for Effective Instruction, therefore, was included in our School Improvement Plan.

In our "Hurricane Preparedness" lesson, students were responsible in designing and creating a "survival kit" with essential items that they believed would help others during a natural disaster. Students decided to create a "real survival kit" for those affected by Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas. This project idea resulted from a "real-need" and it was a great reminder for my students of what it means to be a good neighbor; someone who helps others without seeking reward except for the importance of feeling good for doing good. Students began a "donation campaign" in school and filled book-bags with items that would be essential in a "survival kit" including items that children would feel comfortable with such as small games

for entertainment, reading materials, some food items and post cards from the students expressing their empathy for their circumstances. This activity helped my students learn the importance of reaching out to others that have suffered from a natural disaster and/or other situations by implementing a "be my neighbor" mentality. It guides students in learning how to deal with their own feelings, feelings for others and applying "being a neighbor" through positive approaches and actions. Students recognize that they matter, their feelings matter and that, though they are "small", they have much to offer to others. It also provides students with the opportunity to learn about a person who dedicated his life in the pursuit of teaching children to love and accept themselves and others, to share kindness and value and to understand that though there are "bad things in this world" our choices on how we respond can dictate "positive" results. This, now, more than ever, is vital for our students to learn as they live during this challenging time in history.

These are unprecedented times we are currently living in, especially for our students, but these moments can be a great opportunity for teachers to help our students grow emotionally and learn the true meaning of “being a neighbor”, of helping others and showing kindness. Teachers will want to adapt this project because by implementing the activities and the lessons, they will see their students grow in their capacity to show kindness, their willingness to help each other, their eagerness in “writing” to others and letting them know they’re thinking of them and an increase in their desire to “be better” which will influence their overall achievement in the classroom, and most importantly, impact their life in a meaningful way.

Lesson Plans/Timeline of Activities

September: Have students write a "post-card" to someone at home, sharing how school is going for them and just to say hello. Introduce Mr. Rogers to the students by showing a video snippet of his show "Mr. Rogers Neighborhood" (see website under Resources). Remind students to observe and think about some of the ways Mr. Rogers exhibits being a neighbor to others. Have students begin to list some of his characteristics they observe (is he kind, does he seem understanding, is he polite….). Begin "Hurricane Survival Kit" lesson with students. (Items, Letter and Budget) (see handouts/lesson).

October: Students will write a post-card to a classmate. I know this may be difficult and challenging at first but pick names out of a hat so that all students will receive a post-card (this will prevent students from just picking their friends). Have them think about some of the qualities they have been learning about. Show another video snippet of "Mr. Rogers Neighborhood" (see website under Resources) and discuss how people can be different, but they can still be friends. Continue "Hurricane Survival Kit" lesson with students (Illustration, Design, Create and Test Stage).

November: Students will write a post-card to a teacher that has influenced their learning/life as a student. (Ensure that every teacher in the school receives a post-card). This can be done by getting the Staff list from the office. Involve other students from the same grade level if possible. Complete final part of the "Hurricane Survival Kit" and have students spearhead the donation process to make survival kits to send to others. (See flyer, as well as, organizations that can assist with this). Show another video snippet of "Mr. Rogers Neighborhood" episode #1721 on pbskids.org/video/mister-rogers on Giving and Receiving (prior to Thanksgiving Break).

December: Students will write "encouraging" post-cards to put into "survival kits" (bookbags with donations) to send to those that have been affected by a natural disaster (During the implementation of this project, Hurricane Dorian had devasted the Bahamas, so we delivered, with assistance from a parent whose husband happen to be a pilot and had connections with charity organization in the Bahamas at the time, the kits in the month of December).

January: Students will write themselves a post-card. They will write about what they have learned so far about Mr. Rogers legacy and what "being a neighbor" means to them now that they have participated in an act of helping others. They will also write a "New Years Resolution" that they would like to work on for the coming New Year.

(The following were lessons/activities that were planned but were not implemented due to the changes that began to occur in our schools)

***February:** "Wear Red (or other color) sweater" students will wear their sweater and send/deliver "candy, stuff animal and cards" to children/elderly in an orphanage and/or adult living facility.

***March:** "Be a Neighbor" and donate/fundraise for a "Water drop" for clean water (tablets to send to another country).

***April:** "Invite a Neighbor to our Garden" – Students will give out fruits and vegetables grown in our garden to needy families in the community.

***May/June:** Culminating "Be My Neighbor" event: Watch Mr. Rogers Documentary – Students will meet with families/faculty to share their experiences and how "Be My Neighbor" has impacted their lives. (donations for future "survival kits")

Lesson Plan

"Are You Ready For a Hurricane?"

(Adapted from CPALMS)

https://www.cpalms.org/Public/PreviewResourceLesson/Preview/31726

Handouts for Students

Help for the Homeless
2346 E. Roosevelt Ave.
Orlando, FL 32803

Dear Students,

Help for the Homeless is planning to put together Hurricane Survival Kits for our homeless clients. We would like your help in deciding what items to include in each kit. We are a charitable organization so we need to be careful with our money. During and after a hurricane, we could be without electricity or water. Each person needs enough food and water for 3 days. Without electricity, we will not be able to cook or keep anything in the refrigerator or freezer. While we may have running water, it could be contaminated by flood waters from the hurricane. The Coalition for the Homeless will provide items such as paper plates, cups, plastic silverware, and first-aid items that everyone will be able to use. The people will be able to stay at our facilities during the hurricane.

We have researched the kinds of items that could be included in the kit and produced a cost list for each item. We have also given you the quantity needed for the items that each person would need to last 3 days. We need your team to decide what items to include in each kit, without going over our budget. We will need a total of 300 kits. Each kit will provide materials for one person for 3 days. Be sure to include information about how your team decided what to include in each kit.

Things to consider:

- Each kit is for one person and must last a total of 3 days.
- You must be able to create 300 kits without going over the budget.
- The total budget for all 300 kits $15,000.00

Sincerely,

Mr. Andrew Harvey
Chairman, Help for the Homeless

Item for Survival Kit	Cost per Item/Brand	Number of Each Item Required	Total Cost for the Item	Include in Survival Kit (yes/no)
Flashlight	$6.93 per flashlight (Eveready)	1	$6.93	
Batteries	$4.88 per pack of 4 batteries (Ray-O-Vac)	1 pack	$4.88	
Blanket	$9.88 per plush blanket (Wal Mart)	1	$9.88	
Pillow	$3.58 per pillow (Mainstays)	1	$3.58	
Granola bars	$2.00 per box of 6 bars (Great Value)	3 boxes	$6.00	
Bottled water	$0.15 per 0.5 liter bottle (Great Value)	24 bottles	$3.60	
Can opener	$8.72 per can opener (Amco)	1	$8.72	
Duct tape	$3.34 per roll (Roberts)	1 roll	$3.34	
Peanut butter	$3.28 per 18 oz. jar (Jiff)	1 jars	$3.28	
Bread	$2.29 per 16 oz. loaf (Great Value)	1 loaf	$2.29	
Jelly	$2.89 per 18 oz. jar (Great Value)	1 jar	$2.89	
Cereal	$3.68 per 18 oz. box (Cheerios)	1 box	$3.68	
Fruit cups	$2.49 per pack of 4 (Great Value)	3 containers	$7.47	

Item for Survival Kit	Cost per Item/Brand	Number of Each Item Required	Total Cost for the Item	Include in Survival Kit (yes/no)
8Cheese crackers	$1.89 per pack of 6 (Great Value)	3 boxes	$5.67	
Fruit snacks	$1.89 per box of 6 (Great Value)	2 box	$3.78	
Candles	$0.25 per candle (Great Value)	3 candles	$0.75	
Matches	$0.57 per box	2 boxes	$1.14	
Nuts	$1.89 per 14 oz. jar (Great Value)	2 jars	$3.78	
Apples	$0.38 per apple	6 apples	$2.28	
Canned Soup	$0.89 per can of chicken noodle (Great Value)	6 cans	$5.34	
Canned food such as Chef Boy R Dee Ravioli	$1.56 per can (Chef Boy R Dee)	6 cans	$9.36	
Rain Poncho	$1.00 per poncho (Dollar Store)	1 poncho	$1.00	
Sleeping Bag	$15.97 per sleeping bag (Ozark)	1 sleeping bag	$15.97	
Beef Jerky	$9.48 per 10 oz. package (Great Value)	1 package	$9.48	

Date _____

Dear Mr. Harvey,

Our team, _____, has determined that the following items should be included in each kit:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

The total cost for each kit is $_____. All 300 kits come to a total of $_____.

The procedure we used to come to this decision was _____

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____.

Sincerely,

_____

Help for the Homeless
2346 E. Roosevelt Ave.
Orlando, FL 32803

Dear Students,

Thank you for your help in planning our Hurricane Survival Kits. The information in your letter was very helpful. However, we have been given a donation of 10 portable gas stoves and an additional $5,000.00. We will be able to provide pots and pans to use on the stoves for our clients. We would like you to review the kits you planned and determine what additional items could be added to each kit based on the additional funding. The money needs to be divided among all 300 kits.

You can continue to use the list that I sent to you last time. As you decide which items to add to the kit, you may need to change your decision-making procedures. When you send me your new letter, be sure to let me know if your procedures changed.

We look forward to hearing from you soon! We really appreciate your help.

Sincerely,

Mr. Andrew Harvey
Chairman, Help for the Homeless

Date _____

Dear Mr. Harvey,

Our team, _____, has determined that the following **additional** items can be added to each kit:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

The new total cost for each kit is $_____. All 300 kits come to a total of $_____. We _____ (did/did not) have to change our decision-making procedure.

The changes we made were _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____.

Sincerely,

_____

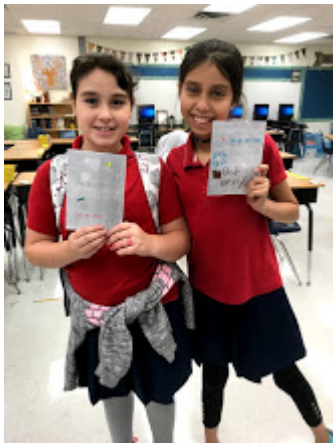
STEM PROJECT			
Project:	"Are You Ready for A Hurricane?"		Duration: 2-3 hours
Technology, Engineering and Math		Teacher: Gomez	Grade Level: 5th
ject areas to be if any:	Reading and Writing		

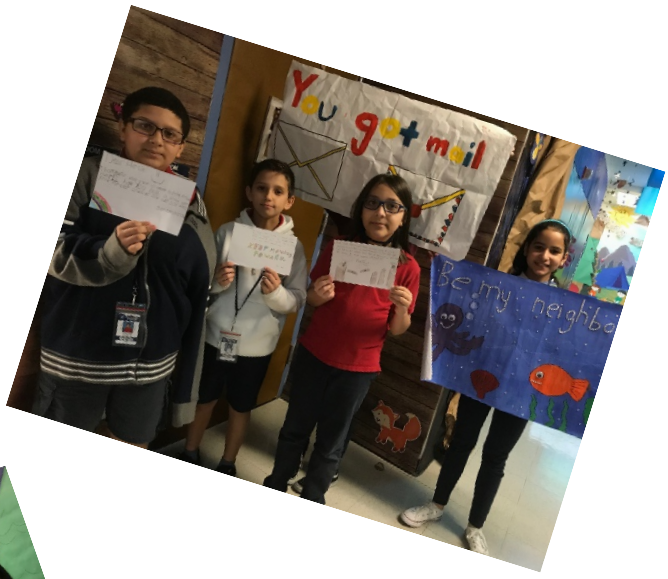
dea of investigation, and/or	This activity allows students to determine the types of items that should be in a hurricane surviva a budget and calculations to determine the items to include in the kit and gain an understanding hurricanes and the need to prepare for them. (CPALMS)
Question	Why is it important to be prepared for a natural disaster such as a Hurricane? "How can we design and create a hurri preparedness plan? What items would we need in a survival kit? How can we design and create a survival kit that wi wind, water and "movement"?
Standards to be d: (1 for Science and 1)	Science Standard: SC.5.E.7.7 Mathematics Standard: MAFS.5.NBT.2.7

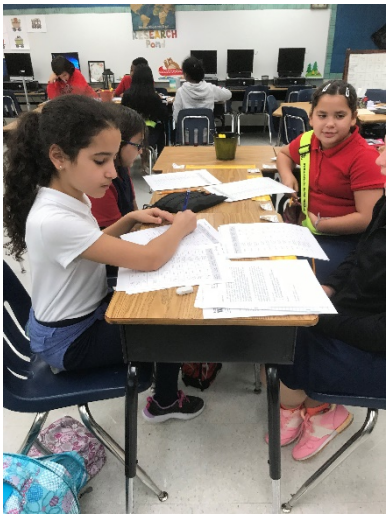
		Yes	No	
tury Skills icitly *taught and assessed* ormative and/or summative nts	Collaboration	X		Resources: Padlet; Excel; CPALMS Handouts;
	Presentation: (Padlet; Packet; Powerpoint; Bulletin Board; Video)	X		
	Technology and Engineering Infusion	X		

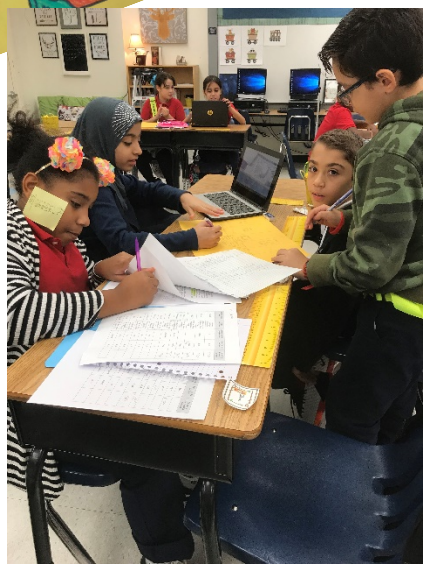
			Presentation Audience:
		Dream in Green	Class:

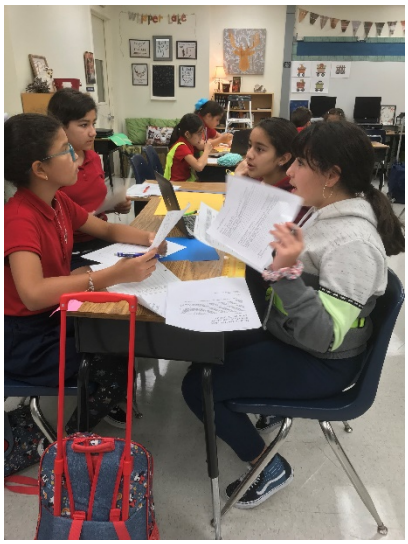
Student Sample Work

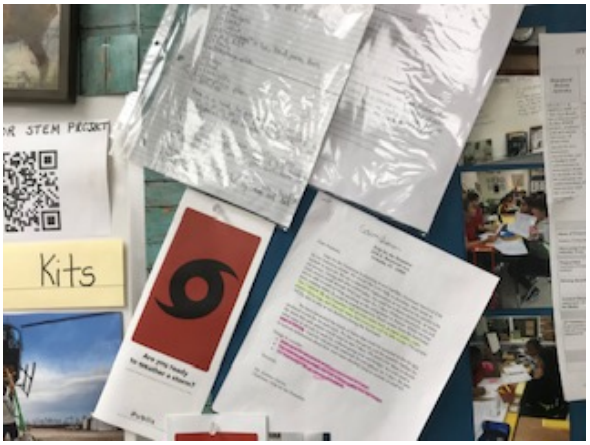


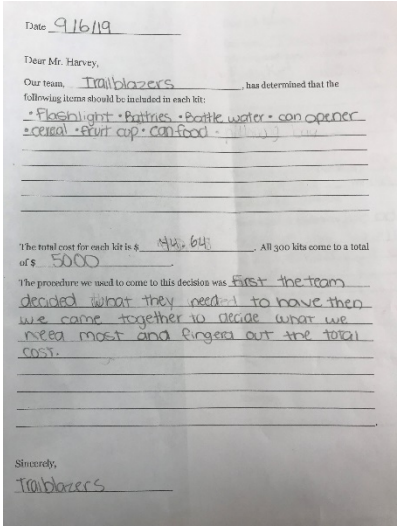












Date 9/6/19

Dear Mr. Harvey,

Our team, Trailblazers, has determined that the following items should be included in each kit:

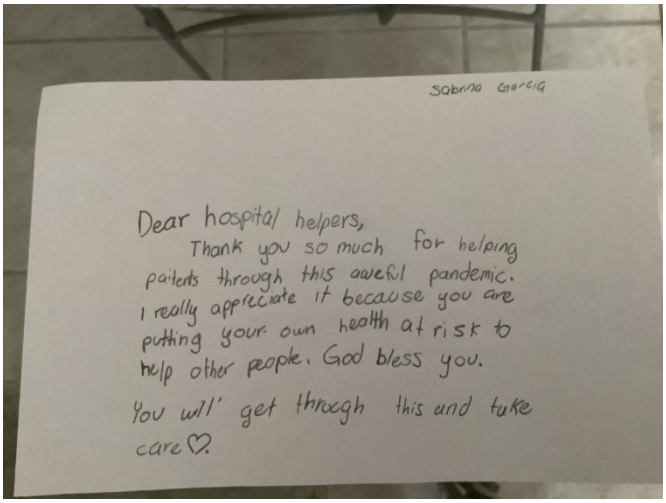
• flashlight • batteries • bottle water • can opener • cereal • fruit cup • can food

The total cost for each kit is $ 49.64. All 300 kits come to a total of $ 5000.

The procedure we used to come to this decision was first the team decided what they need to have then we came together to decide what we need most and fingers out the total cost.

Sincerely,

Trailblazers



Sabrina Garcia

Dear hospital helpers,
Thank you so much for helping
paitents through this awful pandemic.
I really appreciate it because you are
putting your own health at risk to
help other people. God bless you.
You will get through this and take
care ♡.

Resources

Websites:

Pbskids.org/video/mister-rogers
misterrogers.org/watch
www.floridadisaster.org/kids
www.floridadisaster.org/family
www.fema.gov/kids/
www.padlet.com

Specific episodes:
Episode 1578: pbskids.org/video/mister-rogers/1421141146807 – Talks about making mistakes
Episode 1506: pbskids.org/video/mister-rogers – Talks about friends
Episode 1721: pbskids.org/video/mister-rogers – Talks about Giving and Receiving
Episode: pbskids.org/video/mister-rogers/1415181034 (when we're different/boy in a wheelchair)
Episode: pbskids.org/video/mister-rogers/1321385710 (our feelings)

DVD: Mr. Rogers Documentary (Amazon)

Materials: Hanes Sweaters (color optional)
Postcards (I ordered from Amazon; students also used index cards)