

# Volunteer Opportunities:

Please mark the areas you would be interested in helping.

## Individual Grades Activities:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday Bashes before school – donate breakfast items
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pod Parties – after school once per year – participate or donate concession food
- \_\_\_\_\_ Donate items for class projects (i.e. cardboard for the 6th Grade Caine's Arcade games)
- \_\_\_\_\_ End of Year Celebration - help distribute lunch (8th Grade families)

## Whole School Activities:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Donate dinner food for teachers on Parent-Teacher Conference Nights
- \_\_\_\_\_ Donations: Could go toward Ike's Inventory, After School Activities, Prizes, etc.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dance/After School Activities – Sell concessions, participate in games, sell tickets
- \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher Appreciation Week – Donate items to help recognize all teachers
- \_\_\_\_\_ Before School Supervision – be a visible presence for students before school
- \_\_\_\_\_ Be involved in an after-school club/activity: which might you be interested in?
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Chess Club
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Math Club
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Cross Country Club
  - \_\_\_\_\_ RISE – Respecting Individual Sexual Equality
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Garden Club
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Science Club
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Theatre
  - \_\_\_\_\_ BRIDGES
- \_\_\_\_\_ Be a Contact for Organizing parent volunteers for special projects

## Provide Expertise to Any and All Grade Levels:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Be a Guest Speaker to any Class: Which class/topic would you be interested in speaking about? (i.e. career area, country of origin, research specialty) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Conduct Career & Life Planning in-class interviews
- \_\_\_\_\_ Be a Guest Speaker as part of Career Day next December: please list your profession. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Learn more about Southwest MS's District-wide Initiatives:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Equity
  - \_\_\_\_\_ CI3T: Comprehensive Integrated 3-Tiered Model (Academic, Social, Behavior Supports for All Students)



**Community** is a vital part of education, and Southwest Middle School would like to continue building connections with you: Our parents, guardians and families. We are looking for parent volunteers to assist us in creating a positive experience for our students at school. There are so many ways to volunteer: Through time, through donations, or sharing your expertise. We are providing a list of volunteer opportunities: All we need from you right now is your contact information and what areas you would be interested in helping. That way, when those times arise, we know your interests and can contact you personally to check your availability.



You may ask why we have begun to implement a new family volunteer initiative. Research shows that a connection between home and school improves students' academic education, as well as social and emotional education. According to the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP), "There is a natural progression of less day-to-day involvement for parents as their child ages. However, time spent at school events during the middle school years should stay the same or even increase. This is a time when children need their parents more than ever" (Brannon, 2007, p. 63).

One prominent group, the National Education Association (NEA), has done significant research on the involvement families in education. A report they reviewed is named *A New Wave of Evidence*, and it states, "When schools, families, and community groups work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer, and like school more" (Southwest Educational Development Laboratory, 2002). This same report says, "Regardless of family income or background, students with involved parents are more likely to:

- Earn higher grades and test scores, and enroll in higher-level programs,
- Be promoted, pass their classes, and earn credits,
- Attend school regularly,
- Have better social skills, show improved behavior, and adapt well to school,
- Graduate and go on to postsecondary education" (Southwest Educational Development Laboratory, 2002).

Thank you for taking the time to consider aiding us in our new family volunteer initiative. We appreciate all that you do for your child and our school. We look forward to continuing to build a strong community that will allow our students to thrive emotionally, academically and socially, as they navigate these exciting middle years of education.

If you are available to be contacted, please provide your contact information.

## Family Volunteer Opportunities Contact Form:

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Mode of Communication:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Phone Number, Email Address, etc.)

