

VIKES! (Vikings Inspire Knowledge Effort and Service)

The VIKES Project is part of our Social Studies Curriculum and is required for our Economics Classes (Introduction to Economics or AP Macroeconomics) or during one semester of Social Science Survey as determined by the VIKES Coordinator. The VIKES project's overall goal is to involve the students in their communities so they can continue to learn how their communities function and how they can make meaningful contributions to them. It complements the general goal our District's Senior Social Studies Requirement in that it seeks to promote the goal of our students becoming active and informed citizens.

*Because this counts as part of a class curriculum and grade, the project needs to be completed during a designated semester. Therefore, prior or future volunteer experiences cannot be used to replace the requirement.

To complete the VIKES Project, students will be allowed to choose from Two Service Options OR writing a Research Paper

Community Service Option: For this option students will serve at one of the participating agencies listed in the "Service Organization Link" on our website OR participate in a series of community service events sponsored by an approved organization. These organizations have been contacted and approved by the VIKES coordinator. They realize that students need to have a meaningful experience, they know what to expect in terms of our service program, and they know how to evaluate our students. Students may be able to serve other agencies, but any new organizations must receive approval from Mr. Bruce. Students electing to do community service will choose from the following 2 options:

Service Option #1 - Agency-Specific Community Service:

Students will arrange their community service with one particular agency from our listings. They will commit to 20 hours of service over a time period of at least 10 weeks. The students themselves are responsible for working directly with their agency to create a schedule of hours and responsibilities. Students may arrange flexibility in the amount of hours per week, but the goal is to provide consistent and reliable volunteers for at least a ten week period. When picking an agency, students should give their selection a lot of thought and consideration; they will have to live with their decision for ten weeks. Students will need to have a contract signed by an agency director, their parents and teacher. A copy of the contract may be printed by going to the "Service Contract Form" link on this webpage. The contract will need to be turned in to your teacher by a specified date.

Service Option #2 - Community Service Events:

Students will accumulate a total of 20 hours of community service by participating in a minimum of 4 community service events occurring throughout their designated VIKES semester.

Research Paper Option: Students who choose this option will need to get topic approval from their teacher. A bibliography, outline, interviews, rough draft, and final draft are all required following a strict timetable. Students who choose this option need to refer to the *Research Option packet*. *Be sure to see your teacher if you have any questions.*