METHODS OF PEACE PROJECT

Primary Content Area: English I

Introduction
As part of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, Methods of Peace is an English I project which addresses violence in Chicago and local neighborhoods. Students read Romeo and Juliet and discuss the theme of violence throughout the play. Using curriculum that examines violence on multiple levels, students gain an understanding of how violence can affect us at home and in our community. After connecting with a community organization, students, teachers and community members develop strategies to create more peaceful neighborhoods and homes and commit to a life of non-violence.

Project Goals
- Students will gain analytical skills to connect literature to life experience.
- Students will develop an understanding of violence in their lives and community.
- Students will develop an understanding of peaceful methods in their lives and community.
- Students will develop speaking and listening skills to effectively communicate with peers, teachers and organizations to problem solve issues in their community.
- Students will reflect on their experience.

Procedure/Project Sequence
1. English teacher attends MLK Day of Service professional development and is provided with MLK curriculum to teach to classes and share with course team.
2. English classes read Romeo and Juliet and discuss the theme of violence throughout the play.
3. Teacher works with service-learning coach to find community organizations, which address violence in Chicago.
4. English teachers meet in course team to discuss field trip dates and supplemental curriculum to tie to service project.
5. Teachers select lessons from Chicago Freedom School’s Something Is Wrong curriculum for students to examine violence in their lives and communities.
6. Teachers teach MLK curriculum which discusses methods of non-violence and peace to prepare students for their MLK Day service project.
7. Teachers bring group of students to Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence to write letters to officials on how to commit to a safe Chicago. Students also participate in a poster campaign to address handgun violence.
8. Teachers bring group of students to Young Chicago Authors to participate in Arts In Solutions Out in which students develop action plans to influence change and commit to non-violence in their community.
9. Students reflect on their experience.

Community Partner/Resources
Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence
223 W. Jackson Blvd. Suite 802
Chicago, IL 60606

Young Chicago Authors
1180 North Milwaukee Avenue
Chicago, IL 60648

Chicago Freedom Schools (CFS)
719 South State Street
Chicago, IL 60605
http://chicagofreedomschool.org/
Provided Something Is Wrong curriculum, which can be found on the CFS’s website.
CPS Service-Learning Initiative
Cristina Salgado, service-learning program coordinator
773-553-6392
csalgad1@gmail.com
Provided field trips for MLK Days of Service and MLK curriculum.

Addendum
Standards
This project addresses the following Social Emotional Standards and the Illinois Standards for Language Arts.

Social Emotional
2A.4b. Use conversation skills to understand others’ feelings and perspectives.
2D.4a. Analyze how listening and talking accurately help in resolving conflicts.

Language Arts
1.C.4c. Interpret, evaluate and apply information from a variety of sources to other situations (e.g., academic, vocational, technical, personal).
2.A.4b. Explain relationships between and among literary elements including character, plot, setting, them, conflict resolution and their influence on the effectiveness of the literary piece.
4.A.4a. Apply listening skills as individuals and members of a group in a variety of settings (e.g., lectures, discussions, conversations, team projects, presentations, interviews).

Preparation: Students read Romeo and Juliet, discuss violence in the novel and violence in their lives.
Action: Students volunteer at a local anti-violence organization.
Reflection: Students

Cross-Curricular Connections
Connections with Humanities, History and Math (analysis of statistics on violence) could be made during this project.