

Jefferson Middle School PTA

Final Report

School Year: 2017–2018

Committee/Activity: Veteran's Day, November 10, 2017

Chairperson: Kate Witte and Mr. Tyler Bluemling

Job Description: We organized a breakfast for veteran parents and their families in the faculty room and attended a flag raising ceremony with Jefferson Elementary School.

What we did/ accomplished: Mr. Bluemling obtained the names of JMS students who had veteran parents serving in the military either in the past or present and e-mailed invitations. Faculty members that served in the armed forces were also invited as well as the Principal, Dean of Students, and Counselors.

Families RSVP'd to Mr. Bluemling's email address.

We served breakfast in the JMS faculty room. Approximately 18–20 people (students and their families + Mrs. Szessterniak, Mr. Zeiders, Mr. Bluemling, and 2 veteran faculty members) attended. We served 1 dozen bagels and a box of coffee (Brueggers), 1 dozen donuts (Dunkin Donuts), fruit salad, homemade bread, mini chocolate chip muffins (Costco), mini water bottles, and 2 gallons of orange juice. All of the food and drinks were donated by parents. (The PTA President asked for volunteers to donate food in an October email, and 3 parents responded. I asked 1 other parents to donate things, and I donated the rest.)

We used plastic red, white and blue tablecloths that I had and set things up the day before the breakfast. We decorated with flag centerpieces and a large flag banner.

Each veteran (7 parents and 2 faculty members) received a gift bag containing a thank you note and a \$20 Amazon gift card. Our budget covered \$150 of the gift cards, and the rest were donated. We had one additional parent and student attend that had not rsvp'd. We had an extra gift card and candy bag in case this happened. Each student received a bag of candy that a parent donated. In the past we had hats and items donated by Under Armour. You could solicit donations as well.

Guests arrived to the faculty cafeteria starting at 8:00 AM. At 8:40, we walked through the buildings and out the JES office door to the flagpole for the flag raising ceremony. The elementary band students performed some patriotic songs, sang "You're a Grand Old Flag," and read poems. We took a picture of the JMS group of veterans and students.

When the job started:

First day of school – reserve the library with Mrs. Anstandig. The library was reserved for another function that day so we used the faculty room. Look on the district calendar and reserve the library on the day in November when Jefferson Elementary School has their Veteran Day celebration listed. We coordinate our event with the JES event.

September – coordinate with Mr. Bluemling regarding the invitation and details. If you want to do a collection for the VA Hospital and make cards for patients, schedule this with Mr. Bluemling so that he can ask Mrs. Szeszterniak in advance to have students make cards during team time. See the Veteran Day report from 2016–2017 for notes on this.

When the job finished: The day of the event.

Money used: \$150

Suggestions for next year: We did not do a collection for the VA Hospital of Pittsburgh this year because there were several scheduled events and collections this year. You may want to do a collection again. (See notes from 2016–2017.) The students seemed to enjoy making cards for the veterans in Team Time in 2016. Make sure all cards are proofread for appropriateness. Students should not sign their last names on cards or provide contact info.) I delivered the donations in 2016 with my middle school children, and they enjoyed that.

Other comments (committees, number of people needed, etc.): 4 families donated food and \$ for additional gift cards. Mr. Bluemling and I handled the rest.

Contact Kate Witte with any questions: wittefamily@verizon.net

Mr. Bluemling contact: tbluemling@mtlsd.net

Mrs. Anstandig contact: sanstandig@mtlsd.net

Contact at the VA Hospital of Pittsburgh: Keith Lazon II, Voluntary Service Specialist: keith.lazon@va.gov

Signed: Kate Witte, Tyler Bluemling **Date:** 4/14/2017