

Sudduth Elementary School #1

Project Executive Summary

**Project Summary Item 1:**

Our group is the Sudduth Busy Bees, and we volunteer at Sudduth Elementary School. For at least two hours a week, each team member spends time in a first grade classroom. Each day is different for every team member. There are different types of roles that we fill in the classroom. Some work one-on-one with certain children, giving extra tutoring in areas they struggle; others focus on the class as a whole, floating from table to table and answering questions the children may have; and some act as a teacher's assistant. We like to remember that we are there to serve the teachers and the students, so we will do whatever needs to be done. As a team, we thought that we were going to help kids move through the tier system: tier one is where all of the students start, tier two is when kids are placed into small groups because they may be struggling academically, and tier three is where students are at risk for failing and are completely re-taught the material. This meant that we would be working one-on-one with students and would be able to see some noticeable changes. However, because of confidentiality reasons, we do not have access to the records to see how the students are improving. However, even though we do not see the paperwork, many of us can see a passion growing in the kids to learn and succeed.

Sudduth has a covered-outdoor space that is not in fit condition for kids to play. They have a long-term plan to fix the space up so that it is safe and attractive for kids to play in when it is raining outside. We were step one of their plan. We painted a mural that expressed the values of the school: playing, learning, and growing together. At first we thought that we were

going to do a nutrition theme, but it turned out to the school wanted the mural to focus on teamwork and diversity. Eventually, this covered space will be a fun and safe place for the kids to burn off energy together.

### **Project Summary Item 2:**

For the Sudduth Busy Bees, we faced many challenges over this semester in each aspect of the Day One Leadership Program. Our challenges pertained to our Day One class, in the classrooms at Sudduth Elementary, and completing our project. We were able to overcome these challenges, but most importantly, the experience taught us leadership lessons that have shaped us into better leaders.

In class, our biggest challenge was communication. There were days when some people were not present, so they did not know what the plan was. Other problems we faced included responsibility, efficiency, and tardiness. Although these issues occurred within our group, we were able to pull through and get the tasks done. We learned that in order to work together properly, we need communication to always be open, and with that, efficiency and responsibility will take place.

In the classroom at Sudduth, one of the challenges we faced was also communication. At first, we received our volunteer schedule later than other groups, but we still had enough time to complete our hours for the semester. Another challenge in the classroom was finding the balance between being a distraction and a resource for the kids. When we come in, we are like celebrities; every child wants to tell us about their weekend, about a book they are reading, and ask us questions about our lives. Because of this, it is sometimes hard to keep them focused on

their assigned task. We found that making the lesson fun and exciting, they still get to talk to us, but they also get the assignment done faster than they would have without us.

For our project, the school had a dirty outdoor space that needed to be brightened up so the students could still go outside even when it was raining. To kick off the project, a mural needed to be painted on the wall that promoted learning in a fun and diverse environment. None of us are artists, but we stepped out of our comfort zones to do the tasks that needed to be done to finish the mural. In the end, Sudduth Elementary now has a bright and colorful mural that shows all of the important aspects of being a kid: playing, learning, and growing together.