

Sudduth Elementary School #2

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PROJECT EXECUTIVE ITEM 1: Project Summary

This semester, our group, the Sudduth Elementary Bulldog Builders, teamed up with Sudduth Elementary and the first grade students to assist inside the classrooms. We had a goal to help the students inside the classrooms improve their math and reading skills. Sudduth Elementary is structured by a tier system, which are levels that students are placed based on their math and reading scores. We aimed to help the first graders move up a tier in both academic subjects. Each Bulldog Builder was assigned to at least one class to assist the teacher with individual help. Some of us worked with individual students while others may have assisted with the whole class. Our goal was to positively impact the students academically.

The Bulldog Builders painted an outdoor mural that would symbolize being healthy. This mural also provided the children with a creative place to play and stay active, especially when the weather does not permit recess. With the outdoor mural being under a covered area, the students have a more vibrant area to play in when it rains. Each of us stayed committed to working the mural during our own time because we loved what we were doing and who we were doing it for.

Working with Sudduth Elementary made us feel accomplished because we were able to provide a work of art for the school that will last many years. At first, it may not have seemed like we were doing anything to impact the students; but as we moved forward, time showed us that our commitment to come to Sudduth Elementary on a regular basis impacted the students.

Our goal was to help improve their academic scores, but we saw that we also made a difference to them as role models. They became familiar with us, were delighted to see us, and were extremely engaged in their work when we were around. We were not able to see the students' test scores, but we could tell inside the classrooms that we had accomplished what we had set out to do.

PROJECT EXECUTIVE ITEM 2: Problems We Overcame

This semester we learned several lessons, but with that learning we had to first endure problems. The few problems we faced we overcame as a team. Our first challenge was working together. It is difficult to work with people we are unfamiliar with, and some people need more time to become truly comfortable around others. In order for us to become more comfortable around each other, we had to get to know one another. We started doing exercises in class that helped us become familiar with each other's personalities, strengths, and even weaknesses. After a while, we began to become more acquainted with each other and started to enjoy being with one another. Becoming more comfortable also improved our communication within the team. As we progressed, we had very few issues because of clear communication.

Another problem we faced in the beginning was transportation. Not all of the team members had transportation, so we had to figure out a way for everyone to volunteer. It was not a disadvantage for long though because we worked with each other's schedules and determined who could carpool with the ones who did have a vehicle. There were other problems we faced occasionally such as lacking initiative and commitment; but, like the ones before, we overcame them by listening to one another, making appropriate adjustments, and refocusing on the goal.

Having an open mind is very important in a team because it shows we care about each other's opinions. In order for a group to accomplish a mission, it is vital that each member feels valued. In every team, there is a problem with opinions and deciding which decision is the right one. If a team member's idea was not picked, it was always considered. Before making a final decision, everyone voiced their initial ideas and then we decided as a group what to do. If it was possible, each person's idea would somehow be incorporated. Being considerate and listening was a skill we used in our team that made us more united. We all had one common goal, which was to positively impact the children of Sudduth Elementary. If we did not share the same goal then overcoming all of our problems would have been near impossible.