**8th Grade Community Projects**

Last year marked West End’s inauguration into the world of 8th Grade Community Projects. This was a semester long endeavor for all 8th grade students and we were proud of the accomplishments and projects displayed. This year, your student will be participating in the community project as well; however, we will be beginning during the fall semester.

**The project in a nutshell:**

* It is a requirement for IB schools
	+ [http://www.ibo.org/programmes/middle-years-programme/curriculum/myp-projects/](http://www.ibo.org/programmes/middle-years-programme/curriculum/myp-projects/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)
* Students will identify a need in the community, research, and develop a plan of action to carry out in order to try to help the need.
* Students will choose to work independently or with a group.
* Students will choose their topic from a comprehensive list— no topics will be assigned.
* Students will be given some time at school to work on the project, but they will need to work outside of school as well.
* The project will be part of your student’s grade and there will be an EXPO at the end of the year.

The project itself takes students through a design cycle that is present in all units and projects.  They have to investigate, plan, act, and evaluate.  Through the progression students will hone research and communication skills by working with not only grade level teachers but mentors throughout the building and community members. This process will prepare him or her for other long term assignments that will be encountered throughout high school and college.

This task may seem a bit overwhelming in the beginning; however, we assure you that if your student a.) chooses a topic he or she is interested in, b.) creates and follows his or her action plan, and c.) uses the guidance and feedback of his or her topic sponsor and project mentor that not only will your child experience success, but the community will benefit as well.

There will be more details coming and there is also a tab for project information on the 8th grade site, [www.Westend8thgrade.weebly.com](http://www.Westend8thgrade.weebly.com) . Please complete the information below and send it back in the first day folders. If you have any questions, contact me via email at Noelle.taylor@mnps.org. Thanks in advance for your support and help making this a great year at West End!

Noelle Taylor, Ed.S

Dean of Students, IB Coordinator

\_\_\_\_ I have read the information regarding community projects and understand general expectations of my student.

\_\_\_\_ I will check the Weebly site and ask my student for project updates.

\_\_\_\_ I am interested in volunteering as a mentor or research partner for one of the following topics (circle any area in which you have experience):

**Communication, Education, Environment, Family, Health, Population, Poverty, Prejudice, Transportation and Distribution of Goods, and Violence**

Child’s Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Your Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_