

## Epworth-Hawkins STEMM Academy Partnership

### Report of Activities, Calendar Year 2020

Toledo Public Schools halted face to face learning for the 2019-20 school year on March 13 in response to the COVID 19 pandemic; the 2020-21 school year began as online only, with schools opening briefly in October for a hybrid approach, then returned to online only in mid-November. Many of our regular volunteer activities at Hawkins were put on hiatus in March, and uncertainty about health conditions in the community has impeded our ability to plan future activities. However, the pandemic also brought opportunities to reach out in new ways to the Hawkins community.

#### 2019-20 school year activities

2019-20 was our fifth year of programming at Hawkins. The data below are for January – March 2020, the last three months of the school year that began in August 2019. A total of 48 volunteers were active in 2019-20.

Tutoring: one on one, with focus on grades K-3, in response to teacher referrals

- Students served: 40 (weekly average)
- Volunteer tutors: 20
- Hours: 110 (January-March)
- Benefits: Because standardized tests were not given in spring 2020, we cannot document impacts on test scores. In an end-of-year survey, teachers who referred students for tutoring reported that a majority of students being tutored in reading made “fair” academic progress during the time they were tutored. Many commented on the value of one-on-one adult attention for these students. Seventh graders being tutored in math, their teacher reported, made “good” academic progress, as well as “good” improvements in class participation, interaction with classmates, and self-esteem. (In the previous year, this teacher had reported students making little progress from ½ hour one-on-one tutoring sessions. The teacher and tutors developed a new approach in which tutors spent two hours assisting with “stations” that focused on different skills. The 2020 survey suggests that the new method paid off.)

Kindergarten assistants: volunteers helped with small groups in class room each day

- Students served: 20 (1 class)
  - Volunteer assistants: 5
  - Hours: 49.25 (January-March)
  - Benefits: teacher commented in end of year survey that having a volunteer in the classroom provided support for students with academic challenges and contributed to improved student self-esteem and academic gains
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- Book Initiatives
    - Reader bags: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students borrow 2 age-appropriate books weekly
      - Students served: 70
      - Volunteers: 4

- Hours: 42.75 (January-March)
  - Benefits: reading is part of the pathway to academic success, increased exposure to books, enhanced relationship with Reynold Corners branch library
- Book clubs: 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, selected by teachers, met with volunteer biweekly for 6 weeks, to discuss books chosen by teachers
  - Students served: 25
  - Volunteers: 3
  - Hours: 12 (January-March)
  - Benefits: open to all skill levels, increased exposure to books and reading
- Library Center Assistants: library was downsized as part of STEMM changeover, volunteers helped reorganize collection, and provided library services 2 days a week
  - Students served: 175 (weekly average)
  - Volunteers: 4
  - Hours: 126.75 (January-March)
  - Benefits: expanded library hours and student/teacher access to books (part-time librarian at Hawkins ½ day a week), classes from all grades, including special needs are able to borrow books
- Garden Club: Epworth volunteers assist parent volunteer, meets year-round
  - Students served: 17 (weekly average)
  - Volunteers: 2
  - Hours: 7.5 (January-March)
  - Benefits: long-term, volunteer led green initiative, provides students, staff and volunteers exposure to environmental issues, knowledge of food production and effects of climate change
- Recognition of Hawkins STEMM Academy 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduates: Epworth-Hawkins Partnership contributed funds for yard signs and gift bags for all graduates
  - Students served: 55
  - Benefits: provided recognition to graduates in a year when no ceremony could be held, demonstrating to students and families the value of completing 8<sup>th</sup> grade and continuing to high school

#### Ongoing activities

- Staff Recognition: home-made or purchased treats or gift cards delivered monthly to Hawkins by volunteers
  - Number served: 60 staff members
  - Volunteers: 6
  - Hours: 14 (January-March, September-December)
  - Benefits: during a difficult year for TPS teachers and school staff, this brightened one day a month, as documented by their comments of appreciation
- School Supply Pantry: contributions and volunteer assistance for pantry at Grace Church that serves teachers at Hawkins, four elementary schools, and Rogers High School
  - Teachers served (January-March, October-December): 82 (monthly high from all schools), 19 (Hawkins monthly high)

- Volunteers: 8
- Hours: 17
- Benefits: direct benefit to teachers of out-of-pocket cost of supplies, ultimate benefit is to students who receive needed supplies (approximately 380 at Hawkins)
- Emergency Clothing Closet: contributions of clothing to school nurse for students in emergency situations
  - Number served: 1 (nurse) plus students receiving clothing
  - Volunteers: 1
  - Hours: 0 - sufficient items purchased and delivered in 2019 for 2020
  - Benefits: supports maintenance of emergency clothing supply by school nurse
- Hawkins Hut: Epworth contributes small items that are used as rewards in the Positive Behavior Interventions and Support program at Hawkins
  - Number served: all Hawkins students
  - Benefits: recognition for students in all grades who demonstrate Ready, Responsible, and Respectful behavior
- Hawkins Partnership Leadership Team: volunteer recruitment and support, planning, training, coordination, and review of volunteer activities
  - Volunteers (January-December): 8
  - Hours: 564
  - Activities: prepare and distribute quarterly volunteer newsletter, sew face masks as volunteer appreciation gift, updated volunteer handbooks, orientation of new volunteers, training of telephone volunteers (see below) designed and distributed Partnership's first annual report (for 2019-20 school year)
  - Benefits: development and strengthening of the partnership, maintenance of volunteer pool, financial support for activities at Hawkins, communication with all constituents (families and staff of Hawkins, membership of Epworth, and general public)

#### 2020-21 school year activities (September-December 2020)

- Participation in Hawkins Student Support Team (SST): the SST is comprised of Hawkins principal and assistant principal, nurse, counselor, instructional coach, five teachers, one paraprofessional, and two Epworth-Hawkins Partnership representatives; the TPS executive director of curriculum also participates in meetings. The SST has met weekly since mid-September to respond to concerns of Hawkins students and families.
  - Volunteers: 2
  - Hours: 20
  - Benefits: students/families with academic and other needs are connected with community resources, Epworth Partnership participation facilitated participation of Epworth volunteers in making phone calls to families, assisting SST in identifying unmet needs
- Telephone contacts with Hawkins families: in response to a request from the Hawkins Student Support Team, Epworth volunteers made telephone calls to parents/guardians of all Hawkins students to inquire about needs for assistance with pandemic-related issues

- Families served: 221, including 299 students
- Volunteers: 17
- Hours 42
- Benefits: volunteers spoke with 51 percent of families, and left messages for another 36 percent; results of all calls were reported to the SST, whose members responded to families by phone and in person to resolve issues within two weeks; most common problems identified by families were academic (18.7%), food (8.9%), and technology (7.3%). Our volunteers have been asked by the SST to make a second round of calls in late January.
- Participation in Community STEMM Connection: organized in November 2020, 11 members represent Toledo Area Metroparks, Hawkins STEMM Academy, Epworth, and TPS Aerospace and Natural Science Academy.
  - Volunteers: 2
  - Hours: 4
  - Benefits: The Community STEMM Connection (CSC) is a collaborative effort to foster learning that will promote innovation, entrepreneurship, and inquiry-based learning for the students of Hawkins STEMM Academy.

#### Collaborations and Partnerships

- Reynolds Corners Branch Library (Book Initiative programs)
- Grace Church (teacher school supply pantry)
- Toledo GROWS (Garden Club)
- OSU-Lucas County Extension Office (Garden Club)
- TPS Aerospace and Natural Science Academy (Garden Club, Community STEMM Connection)
- Toledo Area Metroparks (Garden Club, Community STEMM Connection)
- Vito's Pizza (Parent Power Hour meetings)
- Epworth youth education department, committees and groups at Epworth