



TAKE A VETERAN TO SCHOOL DAY

FROM THE GREATEST GENERATION TO THE LATEST GENERATION, LET'S SUPPORT OUR VETS!

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2009

Carver Middle School

Leesburg, Florida

BELL SCHEDULE:

0910 – 1012	3 rd Period (Huddle/Homeroom)
1016 – 1056	1 st Period (40 minutes)
1100 – 1140	2 nd Period (40 minutes)
1144 – 1600	resume regular bell schedule (4 th period/first lunch)

AGENDA:

0830 – 0900	Meet and Greet Breakfast with Veterans (Biscuits & gravy, waffles, sausage, fresh fruit, juice & coffee)
0905 – 0910	Students will report to 3 rd Period (Huddle/HR)
0910 – 0915	Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance, National Anthem, flag raising, announcing of winners of AmVets essay contest
0915 – 0920	Veterans escorted to classrooms by History Club members
0920 – 1000	Veterans will address classes and answer questions Yearbook students will be around to take pictures
1000 – 1100	Debriefing and Interviews by Journalism students
All 3 Lunches	Flag Folding Presentations on stage

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- The Daily Commercial will be on campus to record the day's events.
- We are asking that the day be spent working with students on various lessons that have to do with Veterans Day.
- In the share folder, there is a Veterans Day folder which contains the CD-ROM that was sent to the school from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Click on the Flash Player icon to start the CD-ROM. It contains a couple of short video clips, as well as links to the Teacher's Guide, Veterans Day website and Veterans Day posters. The Teacher's Guide is outstanding and contains many useful readings, info and lessons that can be used in class.
- Social studies teachers will be receiving a DVD-R copy of The History Channel's "The Story of Veterans Day," along with discussion questions, to be shown in class Tuesday.
- The following website contains some excellent sample questions that students can ask their veteran, and can help stimulate discussion.
 - <http://www.loc.gov/vets/vetquestions.html>

RESOURCES:

- For those looking for a Veterans-related article to use in Huddle on Monday, the following is an article from Mrs. Demps from *The Washington Post* concerning military recruiting, as well as a link to a short video clip that goes well with the article.
 - <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/13/AR2009101303539.html>
 - http://www.izzit.org/products/samples.php?video=volunteer_military
- The following website contains many more stories of veterans' experiences in various American wars. This is a great site and contains some really emotional stories.
 - <http://www.loc.gov/vets//stories/themes.html>
- For those looking for a more thorough language arts lesson involving technology, see the "Honoring Our Veterans through Poetry Prewriting."
 - http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=9
- Some math problems that are veterans-related:
 - http://www.hsv.k12.al.us/dept/etv/mathofday/mathofday_nov9middle_2006.pdf
- A science/math lesson involving the Millennium Tree, related to Veterans Day
 - <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/ce/eek/teacher/pdf/4-Tree-rif-ic.pdf>

SOME INSPIRATION:

Back in September of 2005, on the first day of school, Martha Cothren, a social studies school teacher at Robinson High School in Little Rock, did something not to be forgotten. On the first day of school, with the permission of the school superintendent, the principal and the building supervisor, she removed all of the desks out of her classroom.

When the first period kids entered the room they discovered that there were no desks. 'Ms. Cothren, where're our desks?' She replied, 'You can't have a desk until you tell me how you earn the right to sit at a desk.' They thought, 'Well, maybe it's our grades.' 'No,' she said. 'Maybe it's our behavior.' She told them, 'No, it's not even your behavior.' And so, they came and went, the first period, second period, third period still no desks in the classroom. By early afternoon television news crews had started gathering in Ms. Cothren's classroom to report about this crazy teacher who had taken all the desks out of her room.

The final period of the day came and as the puzzled students found seats on the floor of the deskless classroom, Martha Cothren said, 'Throughout the day no one has been able to tell me just what he/she has done to earn the right to sit at the desks that are ordinarily found in this classroom.

Now I am going to tell you.' At this point, Martha Cothren went over to the door of her classroom and opened it. Twenty-seven (27) U.S. Veterans, all in uniforms, walked into that classroom, each one carrying a school desk. The Vets began placing the school desks in rows, and then they would walk over and stand alongside the wall. By the time the last soldier had set the final desk in place those kids started to understand, perhaps for the first time in their lives, just how the right to sit at those desks had been earned...

Martha said, 'You didn't earn the right to sit at these desks. These heroes did it for you. They placed the desks here for you. Now, it's up to you to sit in them. It is your responsibility to learn, to be good students, to be good citizens. They paid the price so that you could have the freedom to get an education. Don't ever forget it.'

(Thank you Mrs. Binneveld for sharing this story!)

