

Community Service Day gives middle school students a chance to volunteer

The first K-M Middle School community service day last Tuesday was such a success it could become an annual event. There were 694 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade students who brought rakes and their energy for the day to do community service work in the Kasson-Mantorville area.

Middle school Principal Alan Hodge and sixth grade teacher Amy Wix were talking one day about a community service day. If they were to do it by classroom the students would miss instructional time so they came up with the idea to involve the entire student population and staff. Hodge said Amy Wix, office secretary Mary Kay Johnson and eighth grade math teacher Scott Miller "took the ball and ran with it".

Students worked at places like Prairie Meadows Senior Living, St. John's Lutheran Church, Oxbow Park and worked with **Faith In Action** to do raking at various homes in Kasson and Mantorville. A large "force" of students spent the day in Mantorville raking the two parks, the Welcome Center and Restoration House and the Greek Revival House.

A group of students were in the Evergreen Cemetery in Mantorville documenting names for the Dodge County Historical Society and eighth grade science teacher Tim Johnson's advisory group made wren houses in the morning and after lunch put them up in the Jon and Dee Tollefson woods across from the Zumbro Valley Golf Course.

There were also several stations set up at the middle school as they hosted local day care centers for activities and a carnival.

Middle school counselor Ivan Kroulik was with a group raking the lawn of a Mantorville resident through Faith In Action. "A lot of these students don't know about volunteering and public service. Some of them are working their tails off," said Kroulik. "It's all about having some fun too."

One group of students raking leaves into a large pile at Riverside Park asked an adult volunteer if they could jump into the leaves.....