



DEFINING EXCELLENCE

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

126 high-school students letter in community service

Edina, Minn., May 22, 2009 – On Wednesday, May 20, Edina Public Schools (EPS) hosted a recognition program for the 126 high-school students who lettered in community service this year. The students completed a combined total of 15,000 community service hours – one person would have to work full time for seven and half years to bank that many hours!

In order to receive a letter, students must complete 120 hours of community service, receive a written recommendations from two participants of service, interview with a Youth Development-Youth Service Manager, and complete a reflection project.

Nearly any activity that introduces students to the solution of a social problem can be applied towards community service hours. For instance, volunteering at the Humane Society counts, so does participating in service-learning projects like Kids Against Hunger. Youth Serving Youth Manager Rachael Pream-Grenier estimates that most students receive their hours by teaching religion classes, going on mission trips and participating in other church-related service projects.

In 1996, EPS began recognizing community service as an activity students could letter in; three students received a letter. Over the years, the number of students who lettered in community service grew. "I think what has changed is that more people are aware of the community service letter as an opportunity," said Pream-Grenier. "Edina students are very thoughtful, compassionate and giving – service is a part of them and something they enjoy doing."

Because it allows students to be recognized for more than just sports, many parents are appreciative of the community service letter, as well.

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Edina Public Schools Media Release
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