



# **STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET**

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**SCHOOL:** Delaware Township School  
**ACTIVITY:** Senior Citizen Luncheon  
**DATE(S):** (annually) April or May  
**CATEGORY:** Community Service  
**ADVISOR NAME:** Cynthia Terranova  
**ADVISOR E-MAIL:** cterranova@dtsk8.org

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## **PROVIDE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THIS PROJECT:**

The Senior Luncheon is a cabaret-style event presented to the senior center members of Delaware Township. An annual event for the last ten years, the DTS Student Council jazzes up the luncheon with an encore of a few stellar performers from the annual talent show. Both the officers and general members set-up the event, serve the food, and engage in friendly conversation with the group, making connections, sharing personal interests, etc. After the meal is complete, the DTS Talent showcase commences. Our usual talent line-up includes: piano, dance, guitar, intrumentals, singing, monologues, comedy, and more. After the performances are complete, the seniors and students have another opportunity to socialize and mingle as their belongings are gathered and transportation escorts provided. Once all guests have departed, the Student Council members then assist with clean-up and return to classes.

## **DESCRIBE THE PLANNING & EXECUTION OF THIS PROJECT:**

Planning of the annual Senior Luncheon begins at the same time as our annual talent show preparation, generally late winter or early spring. A major component of the successful planning of this event is selecting which talented acts will have their encore at the Senior Luncheon. The DTS guidance counselor, as liaison to the Senior Center, coordinates the lunch menu to be served through our cafeteria staff. On the day of the luncheon, student council members are excused from classes to set-up and escort the guests to the Performing Arts Room for the big event. Students wheel in serving trays, presenting lunch and friendly conversation with the veteran members of our community. Students remain with their "senior buddies" throughout the encore performances of the Talent Show. Once the performances have ended, the continued socializing and sharing continues until all guests have departed.

## **DESCRIBE THE BENEFIT OF THIS PROJECT BENEFIT TO SCHOOL AND/OR COMMUNITY:**

One of the primary components of the DTS mission statement includes a focus on an active and responsive partnership with our community. The Senior Luncheon is one opportunity to showcase the talent of our students that connect to the members of the community who have shared their time and talents throughout the years. DTS is truly the center of this community and it is with great pride that the seniors return to participate and reminisce on their own talents with our students.

## **EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS PROJECT, REFLECTING ON ANY POSSIBLE CHANGES YOU MIGHT CONSIDER:**

With each passing year, it becomes more and more evident that the Delaware Township seniors look forward to the luncheon with eager anticipation. This event has led our students to a greater understanding and deeper respect for the veterans of the community and likewise for the seniors who interact with our students. The seniors have played an important part in the rich history of Delaware Township ~ its school, its neighborhoods, its foundation. The stories shared, priceless rapport, and bonds created are treasured by all participants.