



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

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<b>SCHOOL:</b>	<u>Delaware Township School</u>
<b>ACTIVITY:</b>	<u>DTS Pep Rallies</u>
<b>DATE(S):</b>	<u>4 times annually (one per marking period)</u>
<b>CATEGORY:</b>	<u>Social &amp; School Spirit</u>
<b>ADVISOR NAME:</b>	<u>Cynthia Terranova</u>
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## **PROVIDE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THIS PROJECT:**

The student council officers and advisors coordinate four pep rallies each school year. The first is generally scheduled within the first two weeks of school as a welcome back for the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders as well as a welcome to middle school for the 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Each homeroom is coached and encouraged by the student council officers and newly elected homeroom representatives to prepare a song, cheer, or other skit for the pep rally, which will be used throughout the year at all pep rallies. The second pep rally is scheduled in conjunction with the conclusion of basketball season to showcase the success of both the boys' and girls' teams. The third pep rally is included as part of spirit week, generally scheduled a week ahead of state testing to motivate & encourage students to do their best as individuals and in support of their peers. The final pep rally is usually scheduled in the beginning of June to spotlight the success of the middle school students as a whole. This is also the time when candidates running for student council officer positions for the next school year introduce themselves & make their speeches. As each pep rally begins, theme music welcomes the middle schoolers to the gymnasium. Officers introduce themselves, the homeroom representatives, and the student council advisors to the general student membership so that all middle school students can become more familiar with the leadership of student council. A wide variety of activities, which are dependent upon the time of year or theme, occur at each of the pep rallies. These have included girls vs. boys basketball, gymnastics routines, the Crocodile Song (a DTS classic!), and many others.

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

The scheduling of the pep rallies occurs in the early summer at the conclusion of the preceding school year. Approximately a month before each of the pep rallies are scheduled, the student council officers form committees during our monthly meetings with the general membership to plan & organize the event. The officers and advisors then collaborate to notify the staff and coordinate the talent for the event. Once all the details have been finalized, the officers meet with administration for approval & publicize the event through flyers & announcements. The student council advisors & technology staff work together on the day of the event to set up all sound and lighting equipment, in addition to the physical education teachers flexibly scheduling their lessons so that the gymnasium can be set up prior to the arrival of students during activity period. The vice principal calls all students to the gymnasium for the pep rallies, coordinates the seating arrangements, and brings the event to order so that the officers can take the lead and begin the program schedule.

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

The pep rallies are a long-standing tradition at DTS, with a strong reputation as a positive tool to unify the middle school students and show support of the school community as a whole. There is tremendous excitement in the planning and participation of every pep rally, with each year's officers taking much pride in their own personal twist on the tradition.

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

The enthusiasm generated by the pep rallies lasts long after the event concludes for the day. We have been fortunate to experience nothing but positive feedback and repercussions from the pep rallies. The only request we continue to receive to change the tradition of the pep rallies is scheduling more than four each year!