Monroe Middle School Wheaton, Illinois North District

Advisors: Mrs. Turner & Mrs. Sanders

Over 700 students in grades 6, 7, and 8 are proud to call themselves

Monroe Eagles. Our Student Council is open to any student who would
like to join. The four elected officers meet with the advisors on Tuesdays before
school to plan weekly meetings that are held on Friday mornings before school. We
focus on service by reaching out to meet needs of our school, others in our
community, state and the world and by promoting positive and fun activities at
school.

We start in August before classes begin by putting a welcoming note with a pen and pencil in the lockers of all 6th graders as well as all students new to the building. In addition we man a table at registration to let students know about our Council. As the school year starts, Student Council members recite the pledge and read announcements to the entire building to begin each day.

Our first big activity this year was a "6th Grade Bash" to help students from several different elementary buildings get to know each other. Planning a way to help others for Make a Difference Day in late October followed this. This year we visited a nearby assisted living facility to talk with the residents, play games and distribute treat bags that we had assembled. For our efforts we were recognized by the city of Wheaton with a "Do Gooders" award. The mayor came to one of our meetings to present it!



During National Education Week in November we thanked our staff for all that they do with a Book Fair gift card. Later in the month we assisted with the annual Christmas Sharing food and gift collection.

During the first semester we were able to attend 3 leadership workshops in our North District before hosting one at Monroe in February. Since the other schools

had done such a great job with the annual theme of "Lights, Camera, Leadership", we decided to focus on this year's state service project. Our activities had a baby theme to them and we were able to have a representative from The Cradle speak at the workshop.

Two other favorite activities of our Council are the $7^{th}/8^{th}$ grade dance that we are busy planning for the end of April and the two all school pep assemblies. The assemblies are held once a semester and are planned and run by Council members. They feature our school band that gets everything started with great music and the recognition of clubs and teams at our school. We also have some type of activity in which students and staff participate. It is usually based on a TV game show. Last year it was "Are You Smarter Than a 5^{th} Grader?" and "Minute to Win It". First semester we did our own version of "Deal or No Deal" with teachers acting as the models and cash prizes.

These activities are in addition to spirit days, fund raising, collecting pop tabs and acting as student guides and hosts for parent nights.

Our membership in IAJHSC has given us a framework for what we do as a Council and has allowed us to make friends and work with students from outside our community. It has given us the opportunity to learn and practice leadership skills while showing us how students working together can make a positive difference in our schools, communities, and the world.