



AP with WE Service Project Examples and Virtual Alternatives

Service comes in many different forms. While this year may look different in many respects, there are plenty of opportunities for students to make a difference in their local and global communities. Below you'll find examples of safe alternatives to service projects students have carried out in recent years.

General Actions

DIRECT : Personally engaging with and providing hands-on service to those in need (usually in conjunction with an organization.)

INDIRECT : Channeling resources to the needs of a community – locally, nationally, or globally.

ADVOCACY : Educating other about an issue to increase visibility and following up with an action that focuses on enacting change.

	FREQUENT TYPES OF SERVICE	SAFE ALTERNATIVES
DIRECT :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holding a donation drive on campus to collect food, hygiene products, school supplies, etc., and working with an organization to provide hands on support at their offices or outreach centers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students can identify safe drop off points for supplies and collect and send them to their chosen organization. If the organization has community drop off locations, students could work to promote the drop off points in their community.
INDIRECT :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing a school or community clean up. Students could also partner with a global organization that focuses on community development or ecosystem restoration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students can participate in cleans ups in their immediate area or in masked and socially distanced small groups. Online fundraisers are also a great solution when hands-on activities aren't feasible.
ADVOCACY :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing presentations to give to community members and advocating for improved conditions of the chosen issue with local or global governing bodies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students can set up virtual presentations in place of face-to-face meetings. Email, phone, or social media campaigns to local and global officials advocating for the chosen issue can also be highly effective.



Project Specific Examples

ART AND DESIGN – Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy

Students created and sold clay sculptures at a local community benefit to raise funds for disaster relief organizations during hurricane season. This allowed them to support an immediate need and apply the principles of design along the way. They focused on Harmony and Unity as part of their concepting and design process.



Blended Learning Alternative: Students could host a virtual art classes to share the importance of design principles and collect donations to contribute to a related cause. Students can also create art and sell pieces via an online platform to raise funds for an organization or cause. This is a great opportunity for students to gain experiencing sharing their art digitally and using their creative abilities to support those in need.

BIOLOGY – Bozeman High School

Students learned about sustainable energy and the human impact on the environment. They held a holiday wreath fundraiser to raise funds for solar panels for schools within their district. Through this, they were able to spread knowledge on the impact this can have on energy costs and how it can help to mitigate the effects of climate change.



Blended Learning Alternative: Students can create wreaths and set up time virtually to work together and sell them through an online platform. Distribution of wreaths could be through mail or doorstep delivery, if feasible. Students could also include a flyer on the importance of solar energy.

CHEMISTRY – Walworth Barbour American International School

Students focused on Green Chemistry and made informational resources on the chemistry of recycling plastic. They conducted research by connecting and interviewing multiple organizations to further understand the topic and how it applies to their daily lives. They created videos to build greater awareness of the topic.



Blended Learning Alternative: Students can create and deploy the videos and informational resources virtually and through social media. Students can also develops lists and build awareness around products that are safer alternatives, less wasteful, and promote better recycling habits. They can hold a friendly virtual competition in their school to help their classmates understand the impact of recycling and how much waste they produce in their own household.

COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS – Canyon Springs High School

Students participated in a hunger and homelessness expo at their school where they presented on their projects. They researched different organizations and then developed a service project to help support their work. Projects ranged from writing cards to children in hospitals, organizing a food drive, and collecting blankets and toys for a local animal shelter.



Blended Learning Alternative: Students can recreate an in-person expo by setting up a virtual meeting with different rooms for each group where attendees can move from room to room to learn about their projects. The projects themselves can be conducted via online donation platforms or safe drop off points where students could collect and ship or deliver products following safety precautions.

COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES – Vernon Hills High School

Students learned about the lack of diversity in the computer science field. They organized an event called Girls Night of Code (GNC) that was designed to introduce middle school girls to computer science to provide an earlier interaction with the field of study. Students also reached out to and invited guest speakers to be a part of this event so that they could share a diversity of experiences related to the application of computer science skills across industries.



Blended Learning Alternative: Students can work with their local middle schools to promote and invite students to attend a virtual event. They can also research leaders in the industry to partner with schools to facilitate and present at a virtual Girls Night of Code. A virtual event allows for an even wider variety of speakers that may have been out of reach for an in-person event.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE – Boulder High School

Through their AP readings, students learned the power of text and the approaches to communicating effectively. Students lent this skill to create a school club called Pen to Heart, where they worked with hospitals, children's homes, and child-care centers in the community to connect children with high school mentors and provide uplifting messages and create stronger community connections.



Blended Learning Alternative: Students can facilitate virtual mentorships or letter/email writing campaigns to connect with community members in need via an online platform. Students can encourage other students within the school to participate as mentors and develop guidelines (or hold a virtual training) on communicating effectively so that all mentors are able to support other students in need.

ENGLISH LITERATURE – Avon Lake High School

Students learned about the impact of literacy on long-term wellbeing and worked to bring greater access to literacy within their community. Students adopted a low-income elementary school and hosted a literacy night, collected books for students and created a reading mentorship program.



Blended Learning Alternative: Students can host a literacy night through an online platform. Virtual mentorships can be facilitated through an online platform or digital library. Students could work with their community to set-up donation drop-off locations for books and can connect with a low-income school to help facilitate the distribution of books to students in need.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE – Rutherford B. Hayes High School

Students organized a STEAM night at a local elementary school where they presented to younger students, building awareness on the issue of access to clean water and demonstrating the multitude of challenges this can cause. For Earth Day, they also prepared an assembly for their peers about climate change and provided recommended steps to take in order to combat this issue.



Blended Learning Alternative: Students can work on educating elementary school students via informative videos and online presentations. Students can also plan an assembly about climate change and access to water that could be delivered online to students and community members.

HUMAN GEOGRAPHY – New Tech High at Coppell

Students became social media ambassadors for a local food bank and created a targeted marketing campaign to local leaders and community members. This helped spread awareness for hunger in their community and solicited donations to help keep the food bank stocked.



Blended Learning Alternative: The marketing and social media campaign can be done through online platforms and donations can be shipped to the foodbank or taken in personally by a small group of students following safety precautions. Students could also consider setting-up a virtual trivia night to build awareness around the topic and solicit donations.

MUSIC THEORY – Farmington High School

Students researched the effects of music on mental health in aging communities. They connected with a local assisted living centre and performed both vocally and instrumentally at monthly services. They also established a program so that other student musicians could join these performances and continue this work in the future.



Blended Learning Alternative: Students can partner with assisted living or children's centers and develop virtual performances or musical workshops to promote mental health.

SPANISH LITERATURE AND CULTURE – de Toledo High School

Students focused on addressing poverty by creating educational opportunities for underprivileged children. They organized fundraisers throughout the year, and donated books, toys, and toiletries to organizations including The Family Rescue Center and the Boys and Girls Club. They also partnered with an organization aiding orphanages in Northern Mexico where they developed and provided extracurricular activities for the orphans to overcome their restrictive environment and discover their passions.



Blended Learning Alternative: Students can create and distribute extracurricular activities virtually. They could also record audio books to promote literacy among underprivileged students or hold online storytelling. Fundraisers can be conducted through an online platform (eg. gofundme) to give students an opportunity to market and advocate for an important cause.

STATISTICS – Regents School of Austin

Students partnered with a local organization that focuses on the needs and betterment of the local homeless community. The students developed a survey and, through face-to-face canvassing in a community the organization built for homeless community members, they collected data to help confirm the effectiveness of the organization’s model. The project culminated in developing a presentation and presenting their findings to leaders from the organization.



Blended Learning Alternative: Students could partner with a local organization and the research can be conducted through online surveys. The presentation of their findings can be facilitated virtually.

WORLD HISTORY – Northgate High School

Students organized a hygiene product drive by setting up a donation table in front of a local drug store. They encouraged people to purchase products while shopping and then donate them to their cause. These donations were then taken to a homeless shelter where they were distributed.



Blended Learning Alternative: Students could create educational and promotional material to understand the causes and effects of hygiene. Students could include a list of products in need and drop off centers so that it’s more accessible for their community to support. They can advertise through social media and emails and encourage products to be purchased and delivered.