

Middle School Level Project Ideas

Dance Marathon- You'll need to reserve your school gym or cafeteria and ask a local DJ to donate his/her services. Have students obtain pledges from friends and family members, ask local businesses to make cash donations or donate food or gifts to use as door prizes for dancers. Think of fun activities to keep dancers busy i.e. hokey pokey, limbo, freeze dance, etc. Determine a time frame for the marathon; we suggest 6 hours.

Make-A-Wish Money Week- On Monday students donate pennies, Tuesday nickels, Wednesday dimes, Thursday quarters, and on Friday students donate \$1. You may want to find a local bank that would be willing to count your change or check with local grocery stores to see if they have an automatic self coin counter (Winn Dixie, Albertsons).

Sell "Wish Upon a Star" Cutouts – You can make your own MAW cutouts or you can order them through the foundation. Cutouts can be sold to students for \$1. Students put their name on cutout. Cutouts are then displayed on a wall in your school to show your support for MAW. Schools can also give cutouts to local businesses to sell to their customers.

Teacher Dress Down Day- First get permission from your principal, next put flyers in teachers boxes to let them know about designated "dress down day." For donations of a dollar or more teachers can dress down to support MAW. Another idea maybe to host a dress down day every Friday for the entire year to raise more money.

Make-A-Wish Fun Run- Students from all over the county can participate. All joggers are asked to make a donation to participate. I.e. \$3 for elementary students, \$4 for middle school students, and \$5 for high school students. You may also want to have food and drinks donated to sell for profit, as well as have T-shirts made to sell to participants and parents. School track can be used for event location.

Paper Chain Link Contest- Paper links are sold to students for 50 cents. Each grade is represented by a different color. Grade levels compete against each other to see who makes the longest chain.

Hat Day- Children give \$1 donation to wear their favorite hat to school for the day. You may even want to give a prize to the student with the funniest hat.

Talent Show- Students showcase their talents. Event can be held in auditorium or cafeteria. Admission is charged for event. Money raised can then be donated to MAW.

Candy Grams- For \$1, students can send messages and candy to their friends (i.e. lollypops, candy bars, or bags of assorted candies). Try and have candy donated by local stores in order to cut costs.

Pie-in-the-Face Contest- Sell raffle tickets for \$1 to students for a chance to throw a whip cream pie in the face of their favorite teacher at the next assembly/field day etc.

“A” A-Thon- Students collect pledges from friends and family based on the number of “A’s” they think they will get on their next report card. Ex. Mom pledges \$1 for every “A” you receive 5 “A’s,” you collect \$5 for MAW.

Fill the Boot- Borrow fireman’s boots from your local fire department. Have competition between grade levels to see who can raise the most money. Winning grade could be rewarded with pizza party (courtesy of their PTA).

Kiss the Pig Contest – First find out what teachers are willing to kiss the pig. Take pictures of those willing to participate and mount them to a water jug for 1 week. Students then put change in the jug of the teacher they want to see kiss the pig. Teacher with the most money kisses the pig.

Host a Movie Night- Rent a current movie and invite students and their families for a fun filled night. Sell tickets and popcorn. Try to have a door prize donated and call ticket number during intermission.

Pig Out for Pennies- Host contest between homerooms to bring in pennies. Homeroom with the most pennies in pounds wins. Get your PTA to sponsor a “Pig Out Party.” Party consists of foods that start with “p” i.e. pizza, potato chips, popcorn, pepsi, etc.

Spaghetti Dinner or Pancake Breakfast- Work with local restaurant or ask parents to help with cooking. Invite students and community residents. Charge an admission fee to raise money.

Host a Pajama Party- Kids always love to have parties. Have a school dance where everyone is to wear his or her pj’s. Charge admission.

Bowl-A-Thon- Collect sponsorships, such as 5 cents a pin or \$5 flat donation from friends and family. Class that raises the most money is

rewarded. Try and have a local bowling alley donate a few lanes for event.

Sell T-shirts- Develop a cool T-shirt and sell to students and parents. For example create a shirt with a sports theme and sell at all the sporting events.

Penny War- Each grade level competes against one another to collect the most pennies. Students are encouraged to put other coins in other grade containers to get corresponding amount of pennies subtracted.

Bake Sale- Students bring in bake goods from home. Bake sale can be held in cafeteria or at local shopping center.

Student Teacher Sporting Event- Students and teachers compete against each other. Funds are raised by charging an admission fee and sale of refreshments. A 50/50 raffle could also be used during game.

Dress Down Day- For students with enforced dress code. Students make small donation to wear casual clothes for the entire school day.

Decorate A Tree- Have tree donated, then sell ornaments to student organizations \$50 for silver and \$100 for gold. Also ask local businesses to donate and purchase. Or sell ornaments to individual students for \$5 allow student to decorate ornament and bring back to put on tree.

Teacher Baby Picture Contest- Have teachers bring in baby pictures. Pictures are then displayed. Students can submit guesses for \$1. Student naming the most teachers wins prize.

Bakeless Bake Sale- (Great for teachers or PTA to participate in) Send a letter to your group stating: You are invited to NOT bake a cake, pie, cookie, or brownies. You do NOT have to shop for the ingredients. You do NOT have to mix. You do NOT have to cook. You do NOT have to cut. You do NOT have to wrap. You do NOT have to do the dishes. You do NOT have to clean up the kitchen. You do NOT have to deliver the baked product. You do NOT have to stand in the heat/rain/cold to sell the baked product. YOU can write a check for \$ x.xx (we suggest \$5 or \$10) to the "Make-A-Wish Foundation" and stay home and enjoy doing something for yourself or with your family!

Best Seat in the House- First find a sofa to use. Raffle off tickets for a student and two friends to win "the best seat in the house." Tickets are sold throughout the week prior to the game. Before the game, volleyball,

basketball, football, baseball, etc; announce the winner. The winner and their two guests get to sit on the sofa throughout the game. Make sure sofa is in an ideal spot to view the game. During half time, order pizza and sodas for the winners.

Breakfast with... - This can be fun and can change throughout the year depending on the holiday (breakfast with the Easter Bunny, St. Patrick, the Great Pumpkin, Uncle Sam, the Pilgrims, you name it – be creative.) Hold a breakfast with Santa during December. Sell tickets. Serve pancakes, sausage, bacon, juice, coffee, etc. Have guests be able to take photos with Santa for extra or you can include in ticket price. Have servers and help dress as elves. You can choose to have other activities or sing Christmas carols.

Cake Walk- Have cakes donated (store bought or homemade). Choose designated area. Place numbers on tops of tables (number is usually taped close to the edge of the table, but far enough apart for people to stand by their numbers). Charge .50 - \$1.00 for each number. They can buy as many numbers as they want. There are 2nd and third copies of each number made. One to be placed in bag to be drawn and one to be placed on a cake. Once all numbers have been sold, start drawing. The person who bought the number drawn gets the cake that has that number on it. The number of cakes you have, is the number of rounds you will play. People will buy more number after each round.

Design and Sell Calendars- Create a calendar. You might want to start by selling sponsorship to local merchants or school clubs. You may want to limit ads to 3 or 4 per calendar page (Sell ads for \$25 or \$30 depending on size). You can also sell individual calendar dates (squares) to recognize birthdays, anniversaries, or other special events for \$3-\$5 each. Collect artwork from students to feature in the calendar. Work with local printer to produce calendars (they may do this at a reduced rate in return for an ad!) Once printed sell calendars for \$10-\$15 at sporting events, school functions, and other activities.

Care Packages – Student care packages are especially popular during the first week of classes or during exams/FCAT. Packages may include, candy, chips, hot chocolate, fruit, cookies, jokes, pencils, scantrons, etc. A great way to alleviate stressful times. Send order forms home to parents, who can order packages as a surprise. You can also choose to use holiday themes i.e. Halloween or even spring break.

Clean-Up Crew- Often organizations of events such as Independence Day Fire Work shows, auto races, arts shows, and other outdoor events will

pay another organization for their volunteers to do the clean-up. Maybe even offer to rake neighborhood leaves or help with gardening for a small fee.

Donation containers- Have teachers set donation containers on their desks for students to drop spare change in after lunch. Maybe even ask mom or dad to put one on their desk. Make sure to state on the container that all proceeds will benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Flag Subscription Service- This is an ongoing fundraiser. This is a service where your group installs a flag in the front yard of subscribers on each of the five or more patriotic days. The flags are put out early that morning or the night before and retrieved later that night. You can sell subscription by the year for a cost of only \$25 -\$40, what you feel appropriate. Remember to associate the initial costs of purchasing flags (buying in bulk will help, also should try Dollar Stores and Home Depot type stores.) Advertise in local neighborhood publications and storefronts. Make sure to confine your sales to a geographical area that's doable for your group. Make sure to leave your contact info for the prescribed to refer you to friends and neighbors who want to participate.

Gas Station Attendant- Ask a local gas station to let you pump gas and wash windshields for their customers. You can either ask for an unspecified donation or a set amount (you will do better with an unset amount).

Guessing Games- This is simple and works just about everywhere for any theme. Fill a large jar or container for candy (i.e. heresy kisses, jelly beans, robin eggs, sour patch kids, mini candy bars, red hots, candy corns etc.). Charge participants to guess how many of the item are in the container. Winner takes the container and its contents.