

Service- Learning Creates Internationally- Minded Students – Cara von Ancken

Students who participate in service-learning are more likely to graduate high school because they are more engaged, see how learning is relevant, and feel connected to their school, community, and teachers. The action of service within service-learning connects students to their community and helps them see themselves as agents of positive change on a local, national, and global level.

Service-learning is an approach to teaching and learning in which students use academic knowledge and skills to address genuine community needs. Service-learning has also been found to be an effective strategy in developing students' leadership skills as well as a strong predictor of a commitment to civic participation (Furco & Root, 2010). The practice of service-learning is grounded in the philosophy that "learning occurs best when students are actively involved in their own learning and when the learning has a distinct purpose" (Billig 2000).

Service-learning is different from community service in that it is tied to learning goals and results in academic outcomes for students that service alone cannot achieve.

Service-learning is a major component of Roland Park for all students, kindergarten through eighth grade, that creates an opportunity for deeper connection, empathy, and active learning. Through these projects our students become excited about the possibilities of helping others while helping themselves at the same time.