

Crosswinds wants you !

Volunteer Opportunities 2007-08 School Year

**600 Weir Drive
Woodbury, MN 55125**

**651-379-2600
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Why Volunteer?

Volunteering in your child's school benefits everyone – students, teachers, the school, and you. Students are more successful when their parents/guardians are involved with their lives both at school and at home. Teachers benefit by your volunteer efforts by having more quality time to teach your children. Crosswinds benefits by having your input, skills, talents and time shared with us. The number of volunteer hours and degree of family involvement could help Crosswinds receive more grants and funding that benefits your student and the teachers. Hopefully you benefit by feeling more involved with your child and their school.

Family Involvement

Family involvement is a key component of the mission of East Metro Integration District and of Crosswinds East Metro Arts & Science School. We want and need your involvement to make this a more successful environment for your student. To facilitate family involvement Crosswinds has a Family Involvement Coordinator, Lia Reich, on staff. Lia can help find ways for you to be involved or point you in the right direction. By filling out the volunteer interest sheet, Lia can match your interests with specific volunteer opportunities here at the school. Lia can be contacted at (651) 379-2622 or at Lia.Reich@emid6067.net

Crosswinds Family Involvement Goals

The family involvement goal for Crosswinds is that every family volunteers for at least one opportunity throughout the year.

Other main goals would be to increase the involvement of families of color here at Crosswinds and to increase the direct involvement with students as student support volunteers during the school day (an ideal volunteer opportunity for those who are home during the day or those with a flexible work schedule).

Volunteer Guidelines

You will find that Crosswinds teachers, staff, and students are extremely grateful for your gift of time and effort when you volunteer. To make your volunteer opportunity a success there are some guidelines in place. The general guidelines are dependability and confidentiality. These guidelines, volunteer procedures and other volunteer information will be addressed by a volunteer packet that you will receive before your first volunteer opportunity. It is also required that everyone that will be working with students go through a criminal background check.

Volunteering can fit your schedule

Crosswinds has volunteer opportunities to meet almost any timeline or schedule ... we want you involved whenever it works for you. There are:

- *opportunities perfect for mornings, during the day, or evenings.
- *opportunities that require short or long term commitment - lasting for an hour or the school year and anywhere in-between.

- *opportunities here at the school or things that can be done at home.

Whenever, whatever, however you can volunteer; we will find an opportunity for you.

Description of Volunteer Opportunities, A-Z

(*** = areas of high priority for family involvement at Crosswinds)

After School Activities

Each quarter there are various activities offered after school for students from 4-5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Contact Stephanie Bergh at 612-285-9465 for current needs.

Art Displays

Creatively display graded artwork produced by our students in the secure display cases throughout the building or the vertical display panels. Contact art teacher Charlotte Schuld at 651-379-2648.

Assist with Students

Work one-on-one or with small groups of students providing support in subject areas. Each house will have their specific requirements and needs. Watch for information about the house needs through emails, newsletters, and at Information Nights or conferences. If you are interested in working with students but your own student would prefer that you not work with them, their class, or their grade, we can accommodate this. Feel free to contact your child's teachers or Lia Reich at 651-379-2622.

Book Fair

Help set up the displays, assist parents and students with questions about the books and other items, and ring up purchases. Most shifts are 2-4 hours each.

Culture Fest

Our Annual Family Cultural Event is held in the spring. All Crosswinds families and friends are encouraged to be a part of this huge, fun festival event. Modeled after the Festival of Nations, it includes live performances, foods, games, and demonstrations. We need people to help plan and coordinate the activities, connect with cultural performing groups in the community, recommend food/restaurant providers, offer items for the display cases, and demonstrate ethnic crafts. It is focused on the cultures of our current students and is different every year. Contact Lia Reich at 651-379-2622.

Drama

Assist with costumes, set creation, gathering supplies/props, providing dinner for cast and crew. Major productions are in December and July. Contact Tinne Rosenmeier at 651-379-2614.

Drivers

Needed to occasionally drive other parents to school meetings, or small groups of students to after-school or field trip destinations. Current insurance information must be on file at the school. May be faxed to 651-379-2690.

Enrichment Opportunities

Advise groups with academic missions including but not limited to Math Counts, Geography Bee, Science Olympiad, Mock Debate and others. May also include driving students to off-site activities or providing snacks.

Fundraising

Various needs throughout the year for houses, activities, and specific purposes. Help source, organize and run fundraising efforts as needed.

Hoops for Heart

Annual fundraiser for the American Heart Association run by Justin Lorang (the physical education teacher). Looking for help in running the event.

Hospitality

Help set up beverages, snacks, or dinners for parent meetings, concerts and other events throughout the year.

Host Family

Crosswinds hosts a teacher scholar from a South American country every year from Amity Institute. The Amity intern lives with a family for one quarter and participates in family activities as well as working in the Spanish department of Crosswinds. Families with the ability to provide a bedroom and to assist with transportation are needed. Contact Sr. Felipe Ferradas at 651-379-2668.

Intersession

Teach, assist, or provide ideas for summer school-like class offerings during the breaks between quarters. A perfect opportunity to share your unique knowledge, talents, or skills with the students of Crosswinds. Contact the Intersession Coordinator.

Judge for Student Performances

Many projects require a panel of adults to listen to and evaluate student presentations at quarter end. Examples of past projects included "Plan a Park/Zoo", Minnesota History Day, Science Olympiad.

Lego League

Coach a team, assist at the tournament or help organize. Teams use Legos to build robots to meet the challenge of the yearly theme. Past yearly themes have included making our world disability friendly or space exploration. Teams are formed during the first quarter, meet after school, and compete in early December against other middle school teams.

Peace Garden

If you have a green thumb and love gardening help plan, plant, and care for Crosswinds Peace Garden which reflects our designation as a Peace Site in 2004. Works with students and other community members. Contact Stephanie Bergh/Anna Barker at 651-379-2640.

Performer/Exhibitor

Various needs throughout the year including Culture Fest, evening events, and end of quarter celebrations. Secure display cases can accommodate artifacts or support materials related to curriculum areas.

Periodic Needs

The Grab Bag of volunteer opportunities – opportunities to help with miscellaneous tasks such as closet cleanout, scrapbook/historian/sewing, translators (especially Hmong), Food Lab organizing and cleaning, mailings, nurse help, childcare, bulletin boards, sign making. Need a flexible schedule, a desire to help when needed, and a way to contact you easily. Just let us know and we will contact you!

Picture Day

On Picture Day help organize name tickets, assist photographers, and assist students as they get their pictures taken for portraits, the yearbook, and their ID card. This volunteer opportunity has a built in reward – a free photo package for your time and help that day.

School Dance

Chaperone the dance. Assist with the snack bar. Decorate. Evening dance is for high school students only. Contact Alison Ringold or Molly Timmerman for more information.

Science Fair

Help out with planning for the Science Fair, set up, and judging of the Science Fair. Looking for people with a science background as judges. For more information contact Molly Timmerman.

Site Council

The Site Council is an important advisory body to the school's administration. It is made up of staff members and parents who are interested in having an impact on how our school is run. Parent and staff input is critical to this group, helping make sure that Crosswinds remains unique as a choice option for our 10 member districts. We especially want to increase involvement by families of color. Site Council meets on the first Monday of every month when school is in session. Transportation can be arranged to make it easier for parents to be part of the Site Council.

Staff Appreciation

Periodic trays of treats are much appreciated by our staff. Full staff meetings are every Wednesday at 8 a.m. (about 60 people). House meetings are during their prep times and vary from House to House. Dinners for teachers are provided by parents during conferences. Contact Lia Reich at 651-379-2622 to contribute or share your culinary expertise.

Subject Matter Experts

Experts in law, science, and the arts are called on to assist students in specific projects throughout the year. Volunteers also help with enrichment projects to stimulate advanced problem solving.

Tour Guides

Give prospective students and their families a tour of the school on Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. Get to know the school from the inside out. Tour guidebooks provided. Parent-student teams needed especially in January for our annual 10 District Open House. Help share what makes Crosswinds such a wonderful school option to prospective students.

Other

If you have interests or talents other than those noted above and you want to share it with the school, simply contact the Family Involvement Coordinator at 651-379-2622 or Lia.Reich@emid6067.net

