



WEEK 2



15+ MIN



Students begin playing a week-long game to serve the teachers at their site.



Posterboard or flipchart paper; Dark marker.

Total Prep Time: 5 mins.



As this is the second Monday of the month, please consider sharing or re-sharing the Monthly Kick-Off activity, and if appropriate, video at www.everymondaymatters.org. Additionally, a three-minute recap of the previous weeks may add extra context to this week and help connect the dots around the monthly theme.

4 C's	SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING	SERVICE LEARNING
• Critical thinking	• Self-awareness	• Integrated learning
• Communication	• Self-management	• High quality service
• Collaboration	• Social-awareness	• Collaboration
• Creativity	• Relationship skills	• Student voice
	• Responsible decision-making	• Civic responsibility
		• Reflection
		• Evaluation

GOALS FOR THE WEEK

- Discover personal traits and strengths that contribute to making the lives of others better
- Identify various ways to serve in local and global causes, and put these ideas into action
- Recognize how to lift others through long-term solutions based on real need
- Understand how “VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME” is an important part of this month’s theme, “MONDAY GETS ENGAGED”



STUDENT ACTIVITY: **“BIGGER OR BETTER”**

1) SHARE THE NAME OF THIS ACTIVITY WITH STUDENTS: “BIGGER OR BETTER”

2) ASK 1-3 QUESTIONS FROM THE LIST BELOW TO WARM STUDENTS UP ON THE ACTIVITY’S FOCUS:

***NOTE:** *Choose questions appropriate to your students' ages, grades, ability levels, and classroom goals. Students may share their answers in pairs, small groups, or as a large group.*

- **Has your school ever “VOLUNTEERED” for an event or organization before?**
 - What was the “VOLUNTEER” opportunity?
 - How did your school get involved?
 - What was the outcome?
- **Have you ever seen a teacher or staff member “VOLUNTEER THEIR TIME” for someone else, even in a small way?**
 - What did they do?
 - What kind of impact did it have?
- **What are some other ways your teachers serve and help you throughout the year?**
- **What is one way a teacher has specifically “ENGAGED” with you to let you know that YOU MATTER?**
- **How might “VOLUNTEERING” for our teachers and staff help us to show appreciation for all they do?**
- **Have you ever “VOLUNTEERED” for more than one day in a row for the same thing?**
 - What was it?
 - How did you feel about the experience?
- **What are some things your teachers could use help with this at the end of the school year or over the summer?**
 - What are some small ways that you could give your “TIME” to help with those things?
 - What are some “BIGGER OR BETTER” ways that you could “VOLUNTEER” in your school to help with a specific need?
- **Do you feel like you work well in a group?**
 - What strengths would you bring to a “VOLUNTEER” team?
 - How might working as a team to “VOLUNTEER” be a way to serve those around you “BETTER”?
- **How will serving your teachers and staff help them to know that they and their consistent efforts MATTER?**

3) SET UP THE “BIGGER OR BETTER” ACTIVITY:

- **Explain:**
 - All year, our teachers work to make our education meaningful and successful
 - Often, they “ENGAGE” with us not only as an entire class, but individually
 - Sometimes they work more than 40 hours a week or on weekends
 - Teachers have a lot going on, but they still give their “TIME” to be there for us
 - Today we are going to “VOLUNTEER OUR TIME” just like our teachers give their “TIME”
 - We will be doing a “VOLUNTEER” act of service for one teacher a day, and we’ll work in teams
 - This service will be small, but still meaningful, and determined by the teacher
 - In this activity, we will insist on doing something for our teacher, because they do so much for us
 - Then, the next day, we’ll go to a different teacher, tell them what our service project was the day before, and that we’d like to do something “BIGGER OR BETTER” for them
 - Then that teacher can decide what that “BIGGER OR BETTER” thing will be
 - Our teams will rotate so that each teacher gets something “BIGGER OR BETTER” each day
 - We’ll do this every day for a week
- **Ask:**
 - How can you “ENGAGE” with your teachers while serving them?

4) **START THE “BIGGER AND BETTER” ACTIVITY:**

- **Note:** Prior to this activity, let the teachers on your campus know about this activity and make sure each is okay with students being involved in their classroom
- **Separate students into groups of 3-4 students each**
- **Make a list of all the teachers at your school on a posterboard or flipchart paper**
- **Assign each group to a different teacher, beginning with the first teacher on the list**
- **Explain:**
 - You will go to the room of the teacher to whom you were assigned
 - Tell the teacher that you are doing a game called “BIGGER OR BETTER”, and that you would like to do a 10-minute “VOLUNTEER” project
 - Ask the teacher what you can do to “VOLUNTEER” for ten minutes
 - If your teacher cannot think of anything, you may offer suggestions, like taking out the trash, organizing, cleaning the classroom, or preparing things for next year
- **Instruct students to go to their various rooms for the activity, and tell them to meet back up in 10 minutes**
- **Then, the following day, have student groups go to the next teacher on the list and say, “Yesterday we did (“VOLUNTEER” opportunity) for (teacher’s name). We would like to do something “BIGGER OR BETTER” for you today” and have them follow through on their “VOLUNTEER” activity**
- **Each “VOLUNTEER” activity should be about 10 minutes long (or if your program has more time, you may extend each “VOLUNTEER” project by 5-10 minutes so students can make even more of an impact)**
- **Do as many of these “VOLUNTEER” projects as possible throughout the week**
- **Make time either at the end of each “VOLUNTEERING” session or at the end of the week (or after all “VOLUNTEER” projects are done) to reflect on what it was like to “VOLUNTEER” in “BIGGER AND BETTER” ways by using the reflection questions below**

5) **AFTER THE ACTIVITY, ASK 1-3 OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO HELP STUDENTS REFLECT ON WHAT THEY’VE ACCOMPLISHED AND HOW THEY CAN TAKE THIS FORWARD:**

***NOTE:** *Choose questions appropriate to your students’ ages, grades, ability levels, and classroom goals. Students may share their answers in pairs, small groups, or as a large group.*

- **What was your “VOLUNTEER” project today, or what were some of the projects you did throughout the week?**
 - Did your teacher come up with the project, or did you?
- **How did your team work together to make your “VOLUNTEER” efforts successful?**
- **Did you get a chance to “ENGAGE” with your teacher while you were in their classroom?**
 - In what ways?
- **Have you ever “VOLUNTEERED YOUR TIME” in short activities like we are doing this week?**
- **Do you think you can find other ways to “VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME” in small ways going forward?**
 - What are some ways you can do this?
- **How do you feel about looking for “BIGGER AND BETTER” ways to serve those around you?**
 - Why do you think we asked you to serve in “BIGGER OR BETTER” ways today and for the rest of the week?
 - How does this apply to all “VOLUNTEER” opportunities?
- **Who is someone in your life that you can serve in “BIGGER OR BETTER” ways this week?**
 - Where will you start?
- **How did helping your teachers show you how much they do for you?**
- **In what ways did you recognize that YOU MATTER and so do your efforts?**
- **How can you do an activity similar to this in your neighborhood?**
 - How can you do it as an organized “VOLUNTEER” project for a specific group?
- **What kind of impact will “VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME” make going forward on the people around you?**

- 6) **THANK STUDENTS FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE “BIGGER OR BETTER” ACTIVITY. REMIND THEM THAT THIS IS A WEEK-LONG VENTURE, AND THEY CAN BE THINKING OF NEW IDEAS TO DO FOR THEIR TEACHERS OVER THE COURSE OF THE WEEK.**
- 7) **CHALLENGE STUDENTS TO GET TO THE HEART OF “VOLUNTEERING” THIS WEEK BY FOCUSING ON THOSE THEY SERVE AND BY MAKING IT A FUN AND MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE. REMIND THEM THAT EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO “VOLUNTEER” IS A NEW WAY TO “ENGAGE” AND UNDERSTAND OTHERS BETTER.**
- 8) **CONTINUE EXPLORING CREATIVE WAYS TO “VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME” BY LEADING ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING EXTENSION IDEAS.**



EXTENSION IDEAS:

DO ONE OR MORE OF THESE EXTENSION IDEAS TO BRING THE LESSON FROM 15 MINUTES TO 30 MINUTES OR MORE.

- 1) **Volunteer Locally:** With permission, find a specific local group that you can do “BIGGER OR BETTER” activities for each day this week or in the coming weeks. Let students find a group or organization that has specific needs and that interests them.
- 2) **Individual Impact:** Let students choose someone from their life that means a lot to them, and to draw up a week-long plan for doing something anonymously “BIGGER OR BETTER” for them.
- 3) **Campus-Wide Volunteering:** Once your week of doing “BIGGER OR BETTER” things for the teachers is up, collaborate with other teachers and their classes to do a meaningful project together for your school.
- 4) **Make Poetry:** In groups, have students create short poems to leave with their teachers when they’re done “VOLUNTEERING” for the day. These poems will be poems of appreciation toward teachers, or have a “Pay it Forward” message.

“ THE BEST WAY TO FIND YOURSELF IS TO LOSE YOURSELF IN THE SERVICE OF OTHERS. ”

- MAHATMA GHANDI