

Ways to support your local school with little or no cost...on the cheap!

1. PRAY FOR YOUR SCHOOL STAFF, THEIR STUDENTS, AND THE FAMILIES.
2. Help teachers set up classroom at the beginning of the year: put up bulletin boards, tear apart workbooks, sort supplies, sharpen pencils, etc.
3. Provide clerical support throughout the year: copy and staple papers, collect field trip notes, help with grading, etc.
4. Don't forget help for the support teachers. Help the librarian shelf books, help PE teacher with equipment, music teacher with programs, art teacher clean the room and wash art aprons, etc.
5. Congregation members can volunteer to speak at the Career Day at school.
6. Provide people to help with the following:
 - a. Dental and eye screenings
 - b. Field Day
 - c. Fun Night
 - d. Enrollment or Open House
7. Train and supply tutors and mentors. (Remember that they must have Safe Gatherings in addition to whatever is required by the local school district.)
 - a. **Tutors** work with one or two children on skills that the teacher assigns.
 - b. **Mentors** meet with an assigned child at lunch time and they eat together and might play a game, read together, make a scrapbook, or just visit. Usually mentors are assigned to children who just need a friend or good quality adult role model.
8. Bake cakes for the cake walk at the "carnival." One cake mix will make two small cakes in disposable pans. Kids love sprinkles, jelly beans, chocolate chips, etc. on top!
9. Kleenex! Most school supply lists include Kleenex for classroom teachers. However, most support teachers like music, library and art have to purchase them.
10. Write notes of support to the staff. Our staff all write to one staff member during Education Week. Lay persons can do this also.
11. Small gifts of appreciation for the staff-candy bars in their boxes, packages of mints during conference week, etc.
12. Help decorate the school for a special event or holiday.
13. Help maintain an outdoor space at the school or have a "workday" at the school to accomplish projects such as planting and painting.
14. Provide trinkets or small gifts for teacher prize boxes.
15. Invite the school to use your sanctuary for their all school music programs. Many schools do not have a space large enough to invite the entire community.
16. Invite classrooms to use your church kitchen. Many teaching units lend themselves to cooking, but few schools have actual ovens when the bread baking unit rolls around!
17. Invite the school staff to use your church for inservice day meetings.
18. Encourage congregation to donate hats, gloves, etc. for children in need at your school. This is a good Christmas project.
19. Assist a class with a field trip. Be the transporter of lunches. Help walk with small group during the trip.