



## 5 Great Reasons to Volunteer (Parents/Carers)

The ongoing social, academic and emotional success of our kids relies heavily on the amazing network of parents and guardians. Volunteering at Knox Academy could be the key to success (for us all!)

You might think you don't have anything to offer, or that someone else is better fit to volunteer their time. But passing the buck doesn't get us away from the fact that we can achieve anything within the community with committed volunteers.

Now, before you show up on my doorstep with your pitchforks in hand, I'm going to let you in on a little secret: volunteering doesn't have to be painful.

Here are five reasons why should get involved

- 1. It takes a village:** As the saying goes, "It takes a village to raise a child," and the same is true for creating and maintaining a positive and nurturing school environment for an entire student body. Planning events, organizing fundraisers, donating time and energy to cleaning up, and using professional and personal connections to benefit the school takes some serious manpower.
- 2. A little goes a long way:** Maybe you work full time. Maybe you run a Girl Scout troop. Maybe you haven't had a decent shower since your firstborn arrived in 2000. We are all busy but the big mistake here is thinking volunteering has to be an "all or nothing," thing. It doesn't. When it comes to helping out, a little can really go a long way. So check your calendar and figure out how much time you can really devote to volunteer work, then make a commitment and stick to it.
- 3. Everyone has something to offer:** I get it – you can't bake your way out of a paper bag. Or maybe you have the coaching skills of an aardvark. Volunteer work at school can seem daunting but Volunteering is so much more than coaching or being a taxi driver... There's a lot of behind-the-scenes work to be done that doesn't require anything other than a true willingness to give your time and energy. Everyone is good at something which means everyone has something to offer. What are you good at? How can you apply your skills and passions to your child's school community? The trick is to find your niche and apply it to volunteer work accordingly.
- 4. Your child will benefit:** Some parents take for granted that their child continues to benefit from the hard work of others. School is so much more than just drop-off and pick-up, yet a large percentage of moms and dads regard the place where their child spends the majority of their childhood as nothing more than an overcrowded babysitting agency. The majority of assemblies, regular fixtures and special events are organized and implemented by volunteers who believe your child is worth the extra effort. Helping to oversee some of these programs and projects will give your child a more meaningful school experience — and that should be motivation enough for anyone.
- 5. You'll feel good:** Not only will your volunteer efforts pay off by enhancing your child's experience at school, you'll feel pretty good about yourself too. Doing for others feels right, and it's contagious.

So do your child's – and yourself – a favor: become a volunteer in whatever capacity you are able to, and get ready to get your buzz on.

To get involved contact: Steve Wands - Active Schools  
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