



PERIMETER SCHOOL
A Covenant Christian Community

Guidelines for Special Class Projects

The question has been raised regarding how to handle special projects for families or organizations, aside from regularly scheduled Service Projects. Some examples include sponsoring a child or a family for Christmas, Operation Christmas Child, or collecting food for a family at Thanksgiving. Should such projects be discouraged or limited? The emphasis of our church is “giving ourselves away to the least and the lost,” however, we have always tried to protect our parents from constant requests for money. As a ministry of Perimeter Church, the school should have a like-minded vision consistent with the church. Rather than discourage such projects, we should encourage careful thinking about which projects we undertake and how we solicit involvement in these projects.

Special projects should be done on a strictly voluntary basis, so as not to put undue stress on a family financially or in additional time commitments. Families should feel free to decline participation. Projects done in the classroom are to be done in such a way that no child feels left out. Some practical solutions for such projects include:

- Select projects that fit the make-up of the class. If there are families struggling financially, select projects that are more service oriented than monetarily driven. Card writing to shut-ins, missionaries, or servicemen can be done with very little money, as can collecting gently used items for the needy.
- If collecting money for a project, collect anonymously by asking for cash donations in a blank envelop. Consider inviting another class to be involved if it will help the project be more successful.
- If the coordinator knows a family cannot give financially but would like to participate, allow them to do something else, such as deliver gifts, wrap gifts, bake brownies, and make phone calls to set up the project.
- For in-classroom projects, such as Samaritan’s Purse shoeboxes, the coordinator of the project should make sure extra items are available for the boxes for any child who is unable to donate his/her own.
- For gift-giving projects, such as adopting a child for Christmas, gifts can be collected outside the classroom so a child not participating does not feel singled out.

Our primary emphasis in these projects is to allow us to reach out to the least and lost alongside our children. This can be a great opportunity to teach our children how God has gifted us differently and how we use those gifts for Him, rather than comparing what each person gives.