



# **STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET**

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**SCHOOL:** Delaware Township School

**ACTIVITY:** DTS Got Talent!

**DATE(S):** (annually) mid-to-late spring

**CATEGORY:** Fundraising/Social & School Spirit/Community Service

**ADVISOR NAME:** Cynthia Terranova

**ADVISOR E-MAIL:** cterranova@dtsk8.org

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## **PROVIDE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THIS PROJECT:**

The DTS Student Council spring talent show has been the highlight of the community for the last ten years. It is a prime opportunity for all middle school students to showcase their talent in a spectacular evening performance for friends, family members, faculty, and the Delaware Township community. Previous showstoppers have included classic and modern dance, bands of various types from rock to retro, comedy acts, vocalists, and much, much, more. Students begin auditioning for the showcase weeks ahead of the actual performance, and select performers are asked to a part of the Senior Luncheon as an encore. This event is our most successful fundraising event for the DTS Student Council.

## **DESCRIBE THE PLANNING & EXECUTION OF THIS PROJECT:**

The annual talent show is actually scheduled in the late spring for the upcoming school year to allow ample time for students (and the community!) to prepare for the showcase. Students notifications begin in January through morning announcements and flyers. This encourages students with a multitude of talents to begin the preparations for our event. In late February, students sign-up, making a commitment, to audition for the talent show and specify the act to be showcased. In late March, the student council advisors host several evenings of auditions. All student acts are included in the talent show as long as they are appropriate for a community-based audience. The advisors and student council officers consult with each of the acts throughout this time to assist the performers with their preparations. This may include suggestions for costuming, choreography, additional practice, coaching, presentation, props, etc. Other faculty that specialize in various areas, such as vocal music, arts, instrumental music, etc. assist the student council advisors and talent show performers in refining the acts for the big event. The final week of rehearsals is held 10-14 days in advance, with school administrators included to approve of the individual performances. Once this is completed, the official program is drawn up and final details are completed. Throughout this time, flyers and other advertisements for the talent show are put on display throughout the community. The night of the talent show is set-up by our student council advisors, officers, technology support team, and staff volunteers to showcase the talent of DTS.

## **DESCRIBE THE BENEFIT OF THIS PROJECT BENEFIT TO SCHOOL AND/OR COMMUNITY:**

This event draws our community together like no other. Retirees, families with young children, and everyone in between look forward to the annual talent show. It is truly a showcase of the shining stars of DTS outside of the traditional academic arena, where EVERYONE has a chance to spotlight their zest.

## **EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS PROJECT, REFLECTING ON ANY POSSIBLE CHANGES YOU MIGHT CONSIDER:**

We continue to enjoy tremendous success with the annual talent show, but that merely pushes us to look for even more ways to expand the extravaganza. Last year, our student council president worked diligently with our technology staff and Broadcast TV club to have the performance hosted like American Idol, with live backstage interviews and instant replay of some surprising events. We also sold DVDs of "DTS Got Talent!" including audition outtakes and rehearsal bloopers. One possible expansion for future consideration is scheduling the event in conjunction with our Fine Arts Festival and Spring Enrichment Extravaganza so that the community is treated to a week-long showcase of DTS student talents in every arena.