



Dear Students and Parents:

Every year during the holiday season, each high school student is asked to donate money/gifts in order to provide a Christmas for a needy child living within the Claymont City School District. This is not simply a matter of providing each child with a gift; it includes providing an entire Christmas for the kids within the family. The gifts that are delivered to the homes include a food basket as well as essential personal hygiene products. Families in need are identified by a committee in the district, which includes counselors, teachers, and school support personnel.

This tradition began at Claymont High School when former principal, Jeff Gyurko, saw a need for the program in the late 1980's. It has since flourished and many local businesses contribute as well; however, the kids and parents in our high school are the major supporters of this program and are very generous. Our students and parents show how our small community comes together to help our own struggling families.

This year the collection will take place in our first period classes. We will be helping 15 children in 9 families and the kids range in age from 8 months to 10 years old. Each student is provided with a pillow, blanket, pajamas, coat, other clothing essentials, and toys. Each child also gets to ask for one special "wish gift" which might include a tablet, bicycle, or scooter.

Our high school students who participate in the program make a difference, feel connected to the younger children, and enjoy knowing that they are part of something bigger than themselves.

Please help support our program by talking to your teenager about the importance of giving back, and the positive spirit that donating to others promotes. Encourage them to offer to do chores for you, a relative, or a family friend in order to earn money to donate to this worthy cause.

Remember that giving maximizes your happiness and those around you!

Sincerely,

Claymont Christmas Committee

and

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