

# Project of the Year: Community service

# LIGHTING UP THE HOLIDAYS

## Cleveland High School

## ABOUT

Lightning up the holidays is a day in our Christmas spirit week where we reach out and give back to our community around us. We bring in kids from our feeder schools that are not fortunate enough to have a Christmas dinner and Christmas present. Leading up to the day that we bring in the kids, we decorate our student government room based on the theme we chose for that week. This year we are decorating the room as Santa's workshop and Santa about to depart his workshop with the presents he is going to deliver the kids. This event is one of our most impactful events for the students who participate in the event and the kids who are picked to come to the school for the day. The kids get an amazing experience that they will never forget and will forever be thankful for the kindness they experienced. And the students who participate in making this amazing event happen learn how hard work and dedication can make such a simple event so impactful for people and learn the importance of community service.

## ARRIVAL

We bring the kids to school by picking them up from their schools at the beginning of the day on the bus. As mentioned, when they arrived, they walked into Santa's Workshop, where we were stormed in for the holidays. Our decorations included a chimney, fireplace, tree, and snow, we wanted to give these kids a full Christmas feel. We had different interactive activities for them to do. One of which was, making ornaments using paper plates and stickers to create their own ornament to take home. While doing this they had VSCHS role models to guide them throughout these activities. After, we took the children throughout our campus showing them the different classrooms and subjects that they enjoy in their own schools. They got to experience what walking through high school would be, see what classes we provide, and talk to a few of our teachers.

## DEPARTURE

Not only our teachers but a few of our own Student Government athletes, band members, seniors, and others got to talk to the children about the extracurricular activities that are done at our school. Then we ended our day with a very nice Christmas lunch and a book with Santa. We wanted to give them a nice lunch with our Storm Fam. As our kids ate we organized their gifts that we purchased that contained a coat, outfit, and a toy. We also included a stocking with puzzles, coloring books, crayons, and candy. After lunch we brought all of the kids together to listen to a story read by Santa and Mrs. Clause. From there, we moved onto the gifts. While the kids got called we watched their faces light up. As they opened the gifts we all shared laughs, tears, and excitement. Ending our day, we got on the bus with our kids, asking them about their day and dropping them off at their school.

