**Kids Take Action (KTA)**
Community Service Learning
at North Middle School
in Brockton, Massachusetts

The NMS, *Kids Take Action* program runs from September to June each school year. The group at *North Middle School* began in April 2008 with 10-12 students. In 2008/2009 school year the group had 22-25 regular members.

This year 2009-2010 KTA is 45 and growing.
Our goals for *Kids Take Action* at North Middle School

To shape the future for our students through community partnerships, committed to excellence in teaching, learning and serving a global community in a way that will allow students to continue to be service oriented into adulthood.

Students will work at developing dynamic community partnerships with businesses, other schools and colleges.
There are four steps involved with service-learning.

• The first, students, with assistance from the teachers, must identify a specific problem or concern in the community they want to address.

• Second, establish the service activity and goals to be met.

• The third step is called reflection, which should occur throughout the activity through reading, writing, doing or telling about the experience. It is through reflection students will also increase their academic learning, moral development, and social responsibility. Students will also consider ways to improve upon the process for future activities.

• The final step includes a celebration in recognition of students’ efforts, as well as acknowledging the community’s need for such activities and student involvement.
Each CSL student maintains their own log book indicating the date and hours worked on a project.

Students also record their thoughts, feelings, and reflections about the project and these writings will be shared with all stakeholders.

Photos are taken of students during the development, and engagement of projects (media release forms required by all students in photos).

KTA student advisors monitor the students log book entries.
Programs such as *Kids Take Action* are essential in every school.

It does take the commitment of staff members to guide students toward project initiatives. Most projects will repeat each year and improve. Some projects, the students won’t continue.

However, the key is to allow students the voice, and to feed them a small snack. When allowed to explore a variety of projects, every student has the opportunity to contribute in their own way.

All students are encouraged to participate. Being a star athlete isn’t required, being an honor student isn’t required, being popular isn’t required. All a student needs is a kind heart and the desire to participate in learning activities that improve their community.

We’re teaching young people to be of service to others, not for credits on a transcript, but for the joy an individual/group experiences when a project or event is completed.