

Students from Ivan Sand Experience YouthBuild 2017(Northwest Metro Region)

There are at least 2.3 million low-income 16-24 year-olds in the United States who are not in education, employment, or training*. Ivan Sand CHS located in Elk River was fortunate enough to become part of YouthBuild which attempts to keep students in school by earning a wage while learning a job skill. 10 students have gone through an intense application process through the MN Jobs and Training Center located in Monticello, and 5 were approved to begin the YouthBuild Program in October 2016. The program is coordinated through the work experience program and takes them out into our district working side by side with Larry Bodnar the construction supervisor learning the trade by completing projects. The students will work 100 plus hours thus giving them a wide variety of learning objectives through a non traditional classroom. Some of these skills are:

- obtaining job skills and earning a wage,
- Gaining industry-recognized certifications in preparation for productive careers (in addition to construction, some train for jobs in healthcare, technology, or customer service)
- Solving personal problems with counseling support
- Giving back and leading through participation in community service and advocating for their communities on the local and national levels.
- Transitioning into post-program placements, in college, registered apprenticeships, other postsecondary opportunities, and employment,

The students replaced the drain tile in Zimmerman Elementary playground and are building buddy benches to be placed at the ECEF and Zimmerman Elementary schools. Along with gaining construction skills the students will become certified in first aid and customer service.



Brennon W, Marissa M, Tre T, Jayson H, Connor H, Larry B (Construction Supervisor)

Sue Yankowiak the work experience coordinator comments, "This experience has proven to be a first of its kind for Ivan Sand and am striving to continue such an experience for our students". The students will complete their hours by early February, but will continue working through the MN Jobs and Training Workforce Center to continue with future career planning.

*[One in Seven: Ranking Youth Disconnection in the 25 Largest Metro Areas](#), 2014, Sarah Burd-Sharps and Kristen Lewis.