SCHOOL OUTREACH

PROGRAM STATEMENT

Each year, the District partners with the Elementary School to conduct public education with approximately 110 students in 4th, 5th, and 6th grade. The purpose of this outreach effort is threefold:

1. Educate our youngsters and their families about importance of wastewater treatment
2. Satisfy the requirements of our Pollution Prevention plan for public education
3. Allows us to serve as a technical resource to our community

The Outreach Program consists of the following:

* Classroom Learning: Lesson Plan Material is provided to the School Teacher for a selected Theme (example, “Watershed Protection”)
* Hands-On Learning: Students come out to our facility for a tour of our laboratory, treatment plant, and heavy equipment
* Visual Learning: Students are invited to draw art for the District’s annual calendar

The classroom lesson consists of about 30 minutes. The topic is focused on the particular theme the District has selected for the year. Themes have included “Give Water a Second Chance”, “Water Is Life”, and “Watershed Protection”. The lesson material is provided for the classroom, and each student receives color illustrated handouts. Teachers are provided supplementary information for their use in future lessons as they so choose.

About a week after the classroom lesson, the students walk to our treatment facility for a plant tour. During the tour, students get to do hands-on lab experiments for pH, temperature, and oxygen. They also perform microscopic examinations of wastewater samples, see the sewer camera and jetter equipment in operation (cool remote controls), and do some hands-on wrenching.

After the tour, the students are invited to participate in the District’s calendar art contest, and submit original art based on the specific theme. Twelve monthly winners are selected for the calendar; a grand prize winner is selected for the calendar cover.   The winners receive a gift certificate from a local pizza restaurant. All students in grades 4-6 receive a full color version of the calendar to take home.

This program is made possible by partnering with corporate sponsors and thru the District’s staff time.  The cost of the program is about $3,000. It’s a great public outreach opportunity, and is a fantastic long-term investment in the development of our community’s future leaders.  And it’s a lot of fun.