TEACHING 9/11 TO CHILDREN
MIDDLE – HIGH SCHOOL

Teachers! Win a trip to NYC to visit the 9/11 Memorial & Museum. To enter, go to: http://911day.org/NYCTrip. Deadline Sept 30.
LEARNING ABOUT HOPE AND UNITY

Tragedy wasn’t the only thing born on 9/11. Hope was born too! Students will be challenged to learn about and discuss the brief but remarkable spirit of unity that arose in America after the 9/11 attacks, and develop ideas for keeping that spirit alive in the country.

Learn! Questions to investigate before getting started

- **Gather** information about the events in America immediately after 9/11, focusing on the “9/11” Spirit of Unity. How would the students describe that moment in time? How was it expressed in terms of patriotism, compassion, tolerance toward others and kindness? What were some of the different ways Americans behaved toward each other, and generally, that marked this moment in time?

- **Think about** why this “9/11 spirit” happened and took hold so strongly in the United States. Was it driven just by patriotism, or was it more? Why did it go away? Or is it still present? Gather examples of how this 9/11 spirit is still present in the U.S.

- **Study the changing demographics** of the United States. Document what percent of individuals in the U.S. are now under the age of 21.

- **Find out** how many people were born after 9/11, or were too young to remember the events of that day. What challenges do these trends pose in keeping the 9/11 Spirit of Unity alive as the years go by?

Plan! Helpful hints to prepare for your 9/11 Day Project

- **Explain the project** to students.

- **Find out if any students, or their siblings or friends were born on 9/11.** Have the students prepare a short set of questions to ask these students if they will be interviewed.

- **Have students visit the 9/11 Day YouTube channel,** and watch three or more of the online videos offered including:
  
  – *Born on 9/11* – the story Hillary O’Neill, and how she views her 9/11 birthday as a blessing.
  

- **Consider also watching as a class two other videos:**
  
  – *Class of 9/11,* a 20-minute video by the nonprofit Ochberg Society and journalist Jacques Menasche
  
  – *Spirit of Volunteerism,* by the 9/11 Memorial and Museum in New York City

Share your good deed on Twitter and Facebook using #911Day or #911DayTeacher.
Do! Ready, Set, Go!

- **Brainstorm 9/11 good deed project ideas.** Break students into groups and have them brainstorm and discuss different ideas for how the class could take responsibility this year for keeping alive the 9/11 Spirit of Unity, and what they could do individually.

- **Make a Good Deed Pledge.** Ask each student to think about good deeds they might do personally during the week of 9/11, or ways they could change their behavior toward others that reflect the 9/11 Spirit of Unity.

- **Engage parents.** Encourage your students to take their ideas home with them and invite their families to join in doing good deeds for 9/11.

- **Display Your Deeds!** Have students write their good deeds for 9/11 on large index cards and display them in the class, or in the hallways of the school.

- **Have your class create its own 9/11 Spirit of Unity video.** Make a video that records each of the good deeds of your students for the week of 9/11, and then edit it into a single video for sharing with the class and posting online. Or make a video that documents the class good deed project you created.

**Share your Good Deed on Twitter, #911Day and #911DayTeacher, and other social media channels.** Let the world know what your class did to pay tribute on 9/11 by sharing your good deed (and pics) on Twitter or Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat or other social media channels, using the tag #911Day. The 9/11 Day organization will look for the best and feature them on its website throughout the week of 9/11 and beyond.

Keep It Going! Ideas to continue your 9/11 Day Project or inspire others to get started

- **Adopt a charity for the year.** Have your students discuss and select a charity or special cause they wish to support as a class for the year, or semester.

- **Select two students each month** who will lead the project and explore ideas on new things the class might do.

- **Create a bulletin board** to share what your class learned about the 9/11 Spirit of Unity.

- **Visit 911day.org** for more ideas.