

Operation Classroom 2023

The mission of the Operation Classroom Initiative is to assist and offer support to teachers and students in underserved or underfunded schools and provide resources that who would not have been available through the local school district.

Implementing Operation Classroom at the Chapter level:

- President of Chapter should appoint an Operation Classroom Chairman and committee
- The Operation Classroom committee should seek out parishioners in their community who are educators and other individuals affiliated with schools to be used as a resource to identify schools in their area that are in need
- Check to see if there is an educational foundation for the school district you choose to help. Some foundations work with the teachers and classrooms by providing needed programs or supplies. If the foundation does not work in that capacity, they may be able to direct you to someone who does.
- Approach a school district, ask if there is a community liaison who works with volunteers who want to assist teachers or classrooms.
- Approach a school principal and ask if there is a project or class/teacher that could benefit from Operation Classroom. The school may have needs that could best be met by approaching the principal first.
- It is the chapter's discretion if the project continues or if the chapter would like to seek out other Operation Classroom undertakings.

What should Operation Classroom look like?

- The program is designed to be flexible. Be creative! Each chapter should design their outreach to the schools and teachers as the needed. Each chapter can choose how they can best help.

Websites available for ideas:

1. Back Pack Build with School Supplies for Students

- <https://www.kinf.org/srsdetails/> or <https://focusnorthamerica.org/>

2. School Supply Drives for Classrooms

- <https://www.kinf.org/supply-drive-tool-kit/>

3. Create a Comfort Closet

- <https://www.simplemost.com/>

4. Provide Snacks during Skilled Testing

- <https://magoosh.com/blog/the-best-test-day-snacks>

5. Winter Coat, Gloves, and Boot Drives

- <https://yougivegoods.com/how-to-run-a-coat-drive>

6. Set up food pantries that are conveniently located on-site at schools for families of students in need.

The school food pantries complement school breakfast and lunch programs, providing access to food for children and their families after the school day has ended.

Chapters should aim for Operation Classroom to be a year-long commitment to a school.

<https://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-blog/school-pantries>

Important Things to Remember:

- Operation Classroom could be started at any time but aiming for the beginning of the school year would be beneficial.
- Network with members of your parish for their connection to any school
- Use the Operation Classroom as a means of promoting Philoptochos awareness
- Get your community youth involved, contact the Greek Schools, Sunday Church Schools and Youth groups to be part of this hands-on project
- Determine a goal:
 1. How many students do we want to reach?
 2. How often do we want to do a project?
 3. Determine what are the needs and a time frame for how long the assistance should take place.

Be creative and make a difference in the life of a child!