

Garden City Public Schools
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For Immediate Release:



“Kids Can Make a Difference” - Garden City Middle School Kicks Off St. Jude Math-A-Thon

Aiming for another banner finish, Garden City Middle School kicked off its 14th year of participating in the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital Math-A-Thon on December 19th. The Math-A-Thon is an annual drive for students in grades K-8 held by the hospital with the dual purpose of improving students’ math skills while helping others. St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital treats thousands of children diagnosed with cancer each year, at no cost to the families, who are also supported with free hotel and meals while their children are being treated. Research and treatment innovations at St. Jude have resulted in raising childhood cancer survival rates significantly from 20% to 80% since its founding in 1962 by actor Danny Thomas, who believed that no child should be denied treatment based on race, religion, or a family's ability to pay.

The drive to benefit children's cancer research has been the focus of just one Garden City Middle School grade level – the sixth grade – since 2007. Coordinated by math teachers Mrs. Drogin, Mr. Hakes, Mrs. Nardone, and Mrs. Orrego (pictured here), the sixth graders were introduced to this year's Math-A-Thon with the hope that the Class of 2023 will again rise to the challenge of completing math packets at home to raise funds for cancer research at St. Jude.

Garden City Middle School has participated in the Math-A-Thon since 2004, raising an amazing total of over a half-a-million dollars for cancer research! In 2016, the sixth grade class raised \$61,817.02, ranking the middle school as the highest donor school in the nation, for the second time. (Garden City Middle School was also the top donor in 2014 with a whopping \$69,296.47!!) The "Top 100" school donor results listing the middle school as #1 in the nation for 2016 can be viewed on the St. Jude website: <https://www.stjude.org/get-involved/at-school/mathathon/top-schools.html>.