

Watch D.O.G.S.

(Dads of Great Students)

Walnut Springs Elementary 2019-20

What is the Watch DOG Program?

- The primary goal of Watch D.O.G.S. is to provide positive male role models for students. Volunteers show their children—as well all other students—that they are valued and that their education is important.
- Historically, dads have been seen in schools when there is specific issue or problem. In contrast, the Watch D.O.G.S. program encourages dads to be in the school for positive reasons—proactively and “just because”.
- Spending a day—or even a few hours—in the school and in the classroom gives dads a greater appreciation for what the teachers and staff are doing daily to educate their child.
- Historically, school volunteering has not been a typical area for dad participation. The Watch D.O.G.S. program gives dads a straightforward, unintimidating, and structured way to be involved in the school. You cannot put a value on the excitement on the faces of students when they see a dad volunteer come to their classroom, enter the cafeteria, or hang out on the playground. Students see moms all the time . . . let them see the dads as well!
- The Watch DOG program is not just for dads. Any adult male family-member of a student can participate. Grandfathers, uncles, and adult siblings are welcome!
- We cannot overstate the value of a positive male role model in the lives of our children. Dads win because they know their role as Watch D.O.G.S. will impact many lives, starting with that of their own child. Students win because fathers and father-figures give their time and energy as a positive attentive role model in the school. Schools win with the support Watch D.O.G.S. provide as a positive and encouraging presence on the campus.

How do I sign up?

- Please fill out a background check form and submit it to the front office of the school at least 2-3 weeks before your volunteer date. This is the same form that individuals have to complete to be a field trip chaperone. The form must be completed every two years. A copy of the form can be found at:

<https://www.dsisdtx.us/domain/745>

- Please find a date and timeframe after September 30th that works for your schedule. Please be mindful of school holidays and early dismissal days. And, please note that Watch D.O.G.S. are not scheduled for days on which the STAAR Test is administered. A copy of the district calendar can be found at:

<https://www.dsisdtx.us/Page/1078>

- An entire day of volunteering is ideal (7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.). However, we understand that your free time is limited and that work schedules rarely coincide with school hours. As a result, please consider volunteering for whatever amount of time you have available—even *it is only a half day or as little as two hours*. You should always feel free to take a break when volunteering to check emails or make calls during the day.
- Please let us know your preferred time **at least two weeks in advance** in one of three ways:
 - Sign-up via our Google form which can be found at:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdF3LbdYDXZGc6Ow5JUXjWBQeYgBe0Q0BICFwj44sWZ3GZxQw/viewform?c=0&w=1>

- Email or call Janie Hernandez at janie.hernandez@dsisdtx.us or (512-858-3800)

Please include your name, telephone number, email address, names of your child(ren), your child(ren)'s grade and teacher, and the date and time you are available. If you have more than one child at Walnut, please indicate whether you would like to split the day or if you plan to volunteer another day, etc.

- Ms. Hernandez will contact you to confirm your volunteer date approximately one week in advance. We understand that schedules can change, so just let Ms. Hernandez know of any changes as far in advance as possible.
- If you have not already done so, you will need to sign a confidentiality agreement at the school on the day you volunteer.
- If you have any questions, please contact Jon Gillum at 512-699-5441 or walnutspringswatchdogs@gmail.com

Thank you!