



NFLPA TEAM UP FOR THE COMMUNITY

Dear Educator,

It's almost game time! This year's Super Bowl will be in New Orleans on Sunday, February 9, and no doubt your students will be super excited. Channel this excitement into a learning experience with *Team Up for the Community*, a free educational program for grades 4-6 inspired by the NFL Players Association's Community MVP program, which honors players who make a positive impact in their hometown or team city.

The program's activities reinforce key academic and social and emotional skills, while also encouraging students to consider how they can make a positive impact on others in your community.

We hope you enjoy these resources and share them with other teachers.

Please tell us your opinion of the program by visiting [ymiclassroom.com/feedback-schoolMVPs](https://www.ymiclassroom.com/feedback-schoolMVPs). We look forward to your comments and suggestions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dominic Kinsley
Editor in Chief
Young Minds Inspired



Questions? Contact YMI toll-free at 1-800-859-8005 or by email at feedback@ymiclassroom.com.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Students in grades 4-6

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Available at [ymiclassroom.com/feedback-schoolMVPs](https://www.ymiclassroom.com/feedback-schoolMVPs):

- This teacher's guide
- Two reproducible student activities
- NFLPA Community MVPs scrap book page
- A curriculum standards chart

CONCEPTS AND SKILLS

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social awareness • Self-awareness • Community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading informational text • Narrative writing • Brainstorming |
|---|--|

ABOUT THE NFLPA COMMUNITY MVP PROGRAM

The **NFL Players Association (NFLPA)** is the union that protects the rights, health, and working conditions of professional football players in the National Football League. Each week during the regular season, the NFLPA honors one player who has gone above and beyond for his community. The weekly Community MVP winners also become eligible for the **Alan Page Community (APC) Award**, which is the highest honor that the NFLPA can bestow upon a player. Alan Page, a Pro Football Hall of Famer AND a trailblazing Minnesota Supreme Court associate justice, has always used his talents for good — qualities the NFLPA wants to inspire in everyone.

HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM

Make photocopies of the activity sheets and use the information below to implement them. Have students share their completed sheets with their families. If you use the activities online, click on the players' photos to find out more about their community service.

ACTIVITY 1 MY MVP

To start, talk with students about what it might be like to be part of a professional football team. Ask how they think teammates support each other on and off the field. Ask: *What words of encouragement might they say to each other? How does the community's support for the team also inspire the players? How might the team's players show support for the community?*

To better understand the concept of team and community support, have students work in groups of 3-5 to brainstorm a team name, mascot, handshake, and cheer to share with the class.

Next, distribute the activity sheet and explain that many NFL players spend time off the field helping people in their communities. Have the students read the motivational quotes from the NFL players, which demonstrate how important being an MVP in their community is to them.

Then, ask each student to identify a person (family member, teacher, school staff member, coach, mentor, etc.) who has been an MVP in their life. In the football outline, have students describe how the person supported them and what they could do or say to thank them. They can also cut out the quote that means the most to them and attach it to the football image. Once done, have the students share their MVP stories and how the person's action made them feel. Encourage them to give the cutout to the MVP in their life so that they know how special they are.

ACTIVITY 2 TOUCHDOWN FOR GOOD

Read aloud the description about the NFLPA Community MVP program on this page. Then, give each student a copy of the activity sheet. Read Part 1 about this season's first four NFLPA Community MVPs while showing them the artwork and actual photos from their charitable events at [nflpa.com/community-mvp](https://www.nflpa.com/community-mvp). Ask students to share their thoughts on the community efforts of these honorees.

In Part 2, have the students work in groups of 3-5 to read about the rest of the 2024-25 honorees at the link above. Using the tips on the activity sheet, have each group select a different player (excluding the honorees in Weeks 1-4) to highlight in a presentation. For further inspiration, distribute copies of the downloadable Community MVP scrap book page (see [ymiclassroom.com/schoolMVPs](https://www.ymiclassroom.com/schoolMVPs)) to see NFL players at work giving back to the community.

In addition, students should use their players' stories as inspiration to brainstorm ideas and volunteer options that their families might do to help your community.

Provide students with guidelines on the presentation format and have them follow the directions on the sheet to prepare a short presentation. When done, have each group share its presentation.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Use these examples to plan a class service project:

- Hold a class, grade-level, or school food drive. Donate the food to a local food bank.
- Create original artwork or crafts to deliver to the residents of a local nursing home.
- Create cards for children who are in a local hospital.
- Collect old clothes, costumes, and other items to donate to a local daycare for use in a dress-up center.

RESOURCES

- NFL Players Association [nflpa.com](https://www.nflpa.com)
- NFLPA Community MVP [nflpa.com/community-mvp](https://www.nflpa.com/community-mvp)
- [ymiclassroom.com/schoolMVPs](https://www.ymiclassroom.com/schoolMVPs)



MY MVP

The players on an NFL football team work together to win games. They encourage each other on and off the field, where they are part of a community that also supports and inspires them. Many NFL players spend time off the field helping people in their communities to show their thanks. Some even become the most valuable player (MVP) off the field as a result.

Read the quotes from four NFL players who have achieved NFLPA Community MVP status for helping their communities.

"I believe the most impactful thing that any of us can do in this life is to love on those who are struggling or often overlooked."

– Jordan Hicks, Cleveland Browns



"I want to be remembered not just for what I do on the field, but for the lives I impacted off the field."

– Alex Highsmith, Pittsburgh Steelers



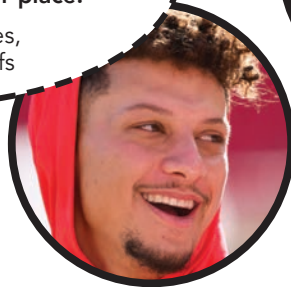
"Helping people is not just the nice thing to do; it's the right thing to do."

– Myles Garrett, Cleveland Browns



"Being an active community leader is something that I feel is important to bring positive change and make the world a better place."

– Patrick Mahomes, Kansas City Chiefs



Think About It! In the football, write about someone who has been an MVP in your life. Describe how they have supported you and what you could say or do to thank them.

My Community MVP:

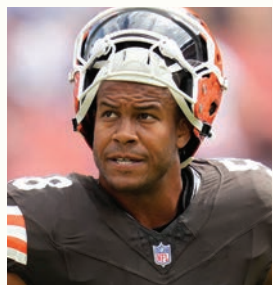
How they supported me:

How I can thank them:



TOUCHDOWN FOR GOOD

PART 1 Each week during the regular season, the NFL Players Association (NFLPA) honors one player who has made a positive impact on his hometown or team city by naming him an NFLPA Community MVP. Read about four inspirational honorees from the 2024-25 NFL season.



Jordan Hicks
Cleveland Browns

Jordan's True Strength Ability Awareness Foundation teaches life skills to young people with special needs and raises money to help improve special education facilities around the country. At a "True Strength Night" event, special needs students in Ohio were celebrated during a high school football game.



Alexander Mattison
Las Vegas Raiders

During his team's first home game, Alexander surprised two families with free game tickets, t-shirts, and \$1,000 to help with everyday expenses. Each year, he donates money to scholarships to help students at his former high school and offers youth life skills/football camps.



Alex Highsmith
Pittsburgh Steelers

Alex hosts a yearly Back-to-School Bash in McKeesport, Pennsylvania. At the event, he gives away 300 backpacks filled with school supplies, books, water bottles, and nutritious to-go meals.



K.J. Osborn
New England Patriots

K.J. gifted 50 students at the Yawkey Boys & Girls Club in Roxbury, Massachusetts, with new sneakers, backpacks, school supplies, and Patriots swag. K.J. also hosts free youth football camps, shoe drives, and holiday family adoptions.



PART 2 With your group, read about the 14 additional 2024-25 NFLPA Community MVPs at nflpa.com/community-mvp. Select an honoree (excluding the four players above) and create a short presentation about that player. Then use their story to brainstorm things you and your family might be able to do to help your community.

In your presentation, include the following information:

- Why the player was named an NFLPA Community MVP
- How the player's actions are connected to his charity/passion
- Five things you can do to give back to your families, classmates, and community

Families, visit nflpa.com/community-mvp to read more about this year's NFLPA Community MVPs. Talk with your children about how your family can help others in your community.