

## **Community Service Requirement**

The intent of this requirement is to encourage students to be active and engaged members of their communities and to address important community issues. Service can unite neighbors, mobilize volunteers and encourage a lifelong ethic of public participation and is best performed in conjunction with a reputable public service organization.

### **Guidelines for Fulfilling Community Service Requirement**

- New students who enroll from out of the district, will be required to meet only the hours suggested for the grade(s) they need to complete. For example, a student entering as a 10th grader will need to complete only the hours suggested for grades 10-12.
- **The Community Service Advisors will present guidelines to students and parents at the Freshmen Orientation. All forms are available online and in the high school office. Community service hours are listed on progress reports and report cards, which are sent out quarterly.**
- **Pre-approval forms must be completed for anything not shown on the pre-approval list. Hours will be denied if a pre-approval form is not signed by one of the community service advisors.**
- **Verification forms should be turned in when completed and will not be accepted after the end of that school year. For example, as a freshmen, all verification forms must be turned in by the end of the freshmen year. Students will be denied hours if they are turned in late.**

### **Guidelines for Determining Eligibility of School-Based Community Service**

Ideally, the act should be selfless: for someone's benefit other than the student's own. And it should not be something the student would be doing regardless of receiving community service hours (like band, sports, theatre, clubs, etc. – on or off campus). It should be in ADDITION.

## What is not accepted as Community Service

The new guidelines for what qualifies as community service for the district graduation requirement have become more explicit. They are as follows:

- \_ No pay may be received for service
- \_ No family members may be the recipients or supervisors of service
- \_ No service may be performed during a student's school hours
- \_ No credit may be given for grading papers; or working for an individual teacher
- \_ No credit for service will be recorded without an advisor's or service recipient's signature, both for permission and approval
- \_ No credit for service will be recorded without the student's sponsor's signature of approval
- \_ It is highly recommended that service be in conjunction with a reputable public service organization.
- \_ No credit will be given for work with a profit-making organization **unless organization is doing something non-profit**
- \_ No credit will be given for co-curricular activities, i.e., managing sports teams, grading papers, working in the concession stands for high school sports or activities, etc.
  - what would usually be considered normal extracurricular (or co-curricular) activities, such as sports and sports-related activities, cheer-leading, participating in school performance activities that are related to a class, etc.
  - Related to a class, credit for a class, or the making of profit, defraying costs of trips, etc.
  - grades cannot be given for service; neither lowered, raised, nor as extra credit
  - credit for service will not be given for court-required or other punitive service
  - service for academic credit. Community service for which students receive academic credit is NOT applied toward the 40-hour requirement. This includes activities performed through independent studies and the community service course.
  - activities such as babysitting, tutoring, or yard and housework to help a friend or neighbor typically do NOT count toward the requirements

## What is accepted as Community Service

- Peer tutoring after school hours or on weekends
- Assisting/facilitating at school functions 9<sup>th</sup> grade orientation, open house, honors night, etc.
- Two hours of community service credit for giving blood during a school-sponsored blood drive (this is an exception to the rule that community service activities cannot be performed during school hours)
- Assisting at Boys or Girls Clubs
- Working with the Habitat for Humanity
- Tutoring after school at an elementary school
- Helping remove graffiti—off campus
- Helping at a hospital, convalescent home, or orphanage
- Working with community theater
- Helping with a community team such as AYSO soccer
- Helping at a non-profit organization such as Little League (helping with sports events of younger St. Vincent de Paul, Salvation Army, children, refereeing, etc.)
- Giving blood (2 hours of credit each time)
- Helping the community through church-related activities, educational activities and non-religious activities which benefit the religious community (in non-financial ways) or the community at large ARE applicable.
- Coaching, managing or refereeing youth sports up through 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Examples of applicable religious-sponsored service activities include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- Teaching Sunday school or CCD
- Baby-sitting during religious services
- Painting church or synagogue buildings and classrooms
- Clothing drives
- Work in shelters
- Participation in church mission trips

**Charity Walks.** Each charity walk is assigned a specific number of service hours for completing the walk, provided the student solicits pledges. Walking in solidarity without raising money for the cause will not earn hours. In addition, extra hours may be earned by fund-raising; for every 10 pledges or \$100 (whichever works more to the student's benefit) raised, a student earns an extra half-hour of service. Copies of the pledge sheets will serve as verification.