

Service Information for Sophomores

As part of your schooling, you are required to do 10 hours of service this year. These hours are similar to the hours you have done before, but the emphasis is different. This year all 10 of your hours need to be done for a church or parish or other faith community. One of the main reasons for this emphasis is to help you understand how many people it takes to keep a faith community running smoothly. There are many ways to get involved in your parish or church. Here are just a few that people are already doing:

1. Lead (not participate in) a Confirmation group.
2. Serve as an altar server, choir member, reader, and/or Eucharistic Minister at your parish.
3. Baby-sit children while their parents are in Church.
4. Help teach Sunday school or other Religious Education Programs.
5. Perform maintenance or landscaping for church grounds.
6. Work with/for St. Vincent DePaul, collecting food/other items.
7. Help with summer Bible School at a church.

Please note that it does not have to be a Catholic faith community. It can be whatever church your family attends or you can help a friend at their church.

Questions you might have...

How do you define Church or faith community? For our purposes here, we will define church or faith community as a recognized worshipping community. We use the term 'faith community' so that people will understand that as interdenominational. *Can I do my service to a parish school?* Yes, the schools are an important part of the parish, hours performed for the parish school (St. Matthew, St. Cecilia, etc.) will be accepted. *Will this affect my grade in Religion?* No, it will not. Service will be listed on your transcript along with your classes, and it will be a Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U) grade.

What if I am not a part of any faith community? My recommendation is to hook up with a friend who does belong to a faith community. That way, you can do the service together, making it more fun, and you don't have to go into a community without knowing anyone. If you cannot find anyone, there will be a few hours available here at school by participating in our school Masses. These hours will be limited and will be allowed on a first come first served basis. Come to room 206 to sign up. *Are there due dates like last year?* Yes, there are. **At least 5 of your 10 hours must be turned in by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, January 14. No hours will be accepted after that time, regardless of circumstances. The last five hours are due no later than 3:00 p.m. on Monday, May 23. Again, no hours will be accepted after that time.** ***I recommend that you turn in your slips as soon as you do the service, to avoid any last minute complications. *How do I complete service credit slips for credit?* In order to get credit for your service, you have to fill out a credit slip, have your direct supervisor sign it, then have me stamp in 'Received' in your presence. *What if I have other questions?* Come see Mrs. Donovan in room 206 ASAP.

There will be a significant change to the importance of satisfactorily completing the service hour requirement each semester starting with the 2010/2011 school year. Successful completion of your service hours allows you to remain a student in good standing and enables you to be eligible for special appointments, awards and recognition. Students who serve as class officers, student body officers, encounter team and crew, retreat small group leaders and students who are being considered for special awards or privileges may be asked to step down or not considered if they have not received a Satisfactory for service hours.