

Justice Education and Service Learning Course

Your family's first assignment is to carefully review the Social Justice and Service Learning Course Manual, and then to sign and return the **Family Acknowledgment Form**, indicating that you are informed and aware of the importance of this service component to graduation requirements. The Family Acknowledgment Form is due before February 21st via Dropbox in their CSL portal. Also, you may turn it in directly to Ms. Somerville in the Campus Ministry Office or by e-mail. Please, keep copies of all turned in forms.

ON-LINE COURSE MANUAL

The Course Manual can be found on the SPX website. Once you log-in, look for the Service Learning link under the Forms and Info Tab in the welcoming page of the website.

WEB PAGE CONTENT:

COURSE MANUAL:

- Introductory Letters
- Mission
- Course Goals
- Course Outline
- Scope and Sequence
- Calendar Dates
- Grading Standard
- Reflection Group Meetings
- Considerations for Selecting Service Agency
- Service Contract Guidelines
- Evaluation and Verification of Hours
- Missed Deadlines And Penalties
- Request For Extension
- Reflection Paper Guidelines
- Prayers for the Journey

APPROVED AGENCY CATALOG FORMS

- Family Acknowledgment Form
- Service Contract
- Reflection Group Assignments
- Reflection Paper Rubric
- Small Group Meetings forms

ST. PIUS X HIGH SCHOOL Justice Education and Service Learning Course

CALENDAR of IMPORTANT DATES

Junior Year – Spring Semester 2018

<u>Date</u>	<u>Service Component</u>
February 21 st	"Family Acknowledgment" Form due
February 28	First Small Group Meeting #1 (lunch) ("Service Proposal Form" assigned)
April 18 th	Small Group Meeting #2 (lunch) ("Service Proposal" Form due)
May 16 th	"CSL Service Contract(s)" due

Senior Year – Fall Semester 2018

<u>Date</u>	<u>Service Component</u>
August 22 nd	Small Group Meeting #3 (lunch) ("Service Update Form" assigned)
September 19 th	Small Group Meeting #4 ("Service Evaluation Form" assigned)
October 3 rd	Completion of 100 hours due (Agency should have mailed/fax/e-mailed the Student Evaluation Form)
October 3 rd	Reflection Paper due (before 8 a.m.) (Paper must be submitted electronically via TurnItIn.com. Student must register beforehand in order to submit paper)

**Please put these dates on your family calendar
and post this page in a prominent place.**

THE OFFICE FOR CAMPUS MINISTRY
AT ST. PIUS X HIGH SCHOOL
≡ *Instaurare Omnia in Christo* ≡

ST. PIUS X HIGH SCHOOL JUSTICE EDUCATION AND SERVICE LEARNING COURSE



ST. PIUS X HIGH SCHOOL
Dominican Sisters ★ 1956

*"Come, you have my Father's blessing!
Inherit the kingdom prepared for you
from the creation of the world.
For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
Naked and you clothed me...
I was ill and you comforted me...
The just will ask him:
'Lord, when did we see you hungry
and feed you...when did we welcome you...
or clothe you?'...
Jesus answered them, 'I assure you that
as often as you did it
for one of the least among you,
you did it for me'."*

Matthew 25:34-40

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JUSTICE EDUCATION AND SERVICE LEARNING COURSE MISSION

Dear Parents/Guardians of St. Pius X Class of 2019:

At St. Pius X High School, we believe that service is integral to personal growth and faith development and have always encouraged students to embrace opportunities to give of themselves to others through service. Beginning in the second semester of the junior year and in connection with the social justice theology class, students are required to complete 100 hours of community service (0.5 units of credit will be awarded). We hope that by learning to balance their time for self and others, students' desire to serve others will become part of a life-long activity. The service course must be completed by October of the senior year. We purposely place the service requirement during this busy time of a student's life, because we want to help our students learn how to use their time wisely, balance priorities, and still have time for others. By learning to balance their time as teenagers, we hope that they will continue to perform service work throughout their lives.

Part of the diversity of the St. Pius X community is reflected by the variety of service work performed. Through their service work, St. Pius X High School students volunteer more than 16,000 hours of service yearly, mostly in the Houston area, but as far away as Central and South America. They serve by tutoring, working in hospitals, summer camps, parish ministries, and with many outreach programs in the greater community. Through their service, students learn about themselves, learn how to work with others and learn how blessed they are.

Thank you for your commitment to St. Pius X and for your help and support in furthering our mission through our service program. We want each student to understand the value of service. If you have any questions about your son/daughter's service course, please feel free to contact Claudia Somerville at extension 117, our Justice Education and Service Learning coordinator, or Patrick Spedale, at extension 119, our Director of The Office for Campus Ministry.

Sincerely,

*Diane Larsen
Principal*

Part of the mission of St. Pius X High School is to repeat to its students the message of Jesus Christ contained in the Gospel and in the tradition and life of the Church. It is essential to help direct the time and talents of students in service to the poor, to enable and empower students in acting as the voice and hands of Jesus in their community and individual lives.

The Justice Education and Service Learning Course embraces this mission and reflects the rich tradition and heritage of the Dominican Sisters of Houston who founded St. Pius X High School over fifty years ago. Today, as then, the Dominican charism includes the advocacy of fundamental human rights and support of individuals and communities deprived of essential and sustaining necessities.

During the junior year, St. Pius X students are engaged in a curriculum of theology that provides a clear understanding of moral theology and includes the essential social teachings of the Church. Such formation makes it obvious that life as a Christian is a life of service and justice. The principles of Catholic Social Teaching explain why we do what we do and provide a solid foundation on which to explain our Catholic attitudes and ministries of good works, as well as guide us how to best serve the poor and vulnerable.

This praxis leads to the growth and conversion of the participants. Ideally, when we serve we discover that we are also being helped, as we gain a better understanding of the political, economic and social realities of our times, and become more deeply aware of the suffering and injustice prevalent in our society. True service learning is not only about "what we give" but more about "who we encounter" - about the dignity and needs of others, our own giftedness and needs, and the God Who journeys with us.

Dominican education is rooted in the service of Truth, "Veritas," and seeks to bring light to that which has been hidden. The mission of the Dominicans is to read the signs of our times and to be *Veritas* in a world hungering for truth. In the tradition of the Order of Preachers, this is fostered by study, prayer, community, and preaching through service to others. These four elements are the pillars of our educational mission at St. Pius X High School and so are at the heart of this Social Justice Service Learning Course.

GOALS

While the "hands on" service experience is the core of this Justice Education and Service Learning Course, the entire process requires participation at many levels and includes a variety of components. This independent course is designed to enable students to grow, from a Christian faith perspective, as people of service. The "learning" aspect is enhanced through adequate preparation, prayer and reflection, awareness activities, guidance, discernment, and small group sharing, held before, during, and after the hours are actually served.

1. Students will experience "service" as a way of learning and living that can permeate all aspects of life, rather than an isolated one-time only activity.
2. Students will take time to research, reflect, and pray about the goals of the program and about possible options for an appropriate area of service which serves persons in need.
3. Students will consistently evaluate the process and prescribed reflection activities.
4. Students will relate the principles of Catholic social teaching to their own service experiences, and demonstrate a deeper understanding of "service" from a Catholic Christian perspective.