



Father Ryan High School

Service Learning Requirements 2023-2024

### **Rationale:**

Service learning allows students to link school-based knowledge with the experience of actively living the Gospel. It encourages students to take the teachings of Christ beyond the textbook, and by so doing, become actively engaged in their Christian faith. It helps them to mature into other-centered individuals in a culture that focuses primarily on the self.

### **Service Learning Requirements: Applicable Freshmen – Junior Year:**

All service hours freshman through junior year must meet the following requirements:

1. Fulfill a Corporal or Spiritual Work of Mercy with a reflection:
  - o Corporal—Feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the prisoners, bury the dead, give alms to the poor.
  - o Spiritual—Counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish the sinner, comfort the sorrowful, forgive injuries, bear wrongs patiently, pray for the living and the dead.
2. Work with an established organization:
  - o Students should serve with a reputable organization. Examples include Room in the Inn, Catholic Charities, Dismas House, Habitat for Humanity, etc.
  - o If students are unclear whether a service opportunity is with an established organization, they must ask their Theology teacher or Coordinator of Campus Ministry and Service Learning *in advance* to learn whether the hours will count. Failure to do so may result in hours not being counted.
  - o Students *do not* earn hours for services such as supporting a family member (e.g. visiting a grandparent in a nursing home), helping out a neighbor, or doing things at home to benefit individuals or an organization (e.g. making sack lunches to give to the homeless).
  - o Students *do not* earn hours for making a donation, as this is not time spent volunteering. Students can earn hours by volunteering for a donation/fundraising event with an approved non-profit (e.g. Relay for Life).
3. All hours must be verified by a representative of the organization:
  - o Verification can only come through a representative of the organization who was present during the service hour completion.
  - o Verification cannot come from a family member or friend—no exceptions.
  - o All hours must be verified through our online tracking system—Mobile Serve.
  - o Falsification or inflation of hours is considered an integrity code violation and will be handled as such.

4. Each year's service hours are tracked from May 23<sup>rd</sup> (the first day of summer break) to May 22<sup>nd</sup> (the last day of finals).
  - Hours carry over from first to second semester, meaning students may complete all hours in the first semester and have their service requirement completed for the school year. They may also complete them all over summer for the upcoming school year.

### **Mobile Serve—Our online tracking system:**

All new students are trained in the use of Mobile Serve through Campus Ministry and Service Learning in their Theology classes.

- Students must enter their hours on Mobile Serve and have them verified by the applicable organization, and then their Theology teacher will approve them.

### **Service Opportunities:**

Campus Ministry and Student Life offers numerous service opportunities throughout the year. If students cannot drive or have a limited schedule, this is not an obstacle to meaningful service. These opportunities are available to find in the following ways:

- MyFatherRyan Resource Board – Service Learning Information Tile
  - This tile lists several organizations that are school approved and accepting Father Ryan student volunteers and provides direction on how to sign up.
  - The top of the page highlights events happening soon.
- Service Fair held early in the fall semester where students can meet representatives from organizations.
- Theology classes, where teachers will share information with students.
- House Service Days – held once a semester.
- Mobile Serve database (check if an organization/event is approved before serving)
- In the Campus Ministry and Student Life Office—stop by anytime!

### **Year Requirements:**

- Freshman – 10 hours (5 each semester)
- Sophomores – 15 hours (7.5 each semester)
- Juniors – 25 hours (12.5 each semester)

### **Grading:**

- Due Dates:
  - December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 11:59pm (half of the yearly required hours due)
  - May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 11:59pm (rest of the yearly required hours due)
  - Hours must be inputted, verified, and approved in Mobile Serve by these deadlines.
- Service hours impact each student's theology semester grade:
  - Freshman – 5% of overall semester grade
  - Sophomore – 10% of overall semester grade
  - Junior – 10% of overall semester grade

## **Failure to Complete Hours**

Service learning is a vital component to our curriculum and Catholic faith and identity. Therefore, students are not allowed to skip service hours.

- All hours **MUST** be completed. Failure to do so will result in
  - o Students' Theology grades being impacted. Late hours after the due date will not be accepted to count towards students' grades.
  - o No participation in any Father Ryan extra-curriculars until the hour requirement has been met for that year.
    - Ex. For freshman year, if students complete 8 out of 10 hours by May 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm, they will receive an 80% on the service hour portion of their semester grade (5% of the overall semester grade) and be unable to participate in any extra-curriculars, including over the summer, until the tenth hour is complete. Once that final hour is complete, students may resume extra-curricular activities, but the grade cannot be changed after the due date.
  - o Should students not participate in any extra-curricular activities, the Campus Ministry Office reserves the right to grant a different consequence to the students.

## **Senior Class - Jesus Christ, Mission in the Church – Summer before senior year**

If students are interested in taking Jesus Christ, Mission in the Church class as a summer school class before their senior year, they must have completed all junior year service requirements.

## **Senior Service Requirements**

Seniors complete service-learning through their coursework in the required class titled Jesus Christ, Mission in the Church, which they may take over summer if they met their junior year service requirements, or during their senior year. They complete their Theology IV requirement by selecting one of the following classes in addition to Jesus Christ Class:

- Senior Service
- Intro to Philosophy
- World Religions

## **Contacts:**

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