

MHMS Community Service Guidelines

The purpose of community service is for students to engage in activities that help them develop an appreciation of service to the school or community and develop an appreciation of helping others.

What are the benefits of volunteering for community service?

Have the opportunity to help others: This is often the most important benefit of community service. Participating in it gives you the opportunity to know that you are improving someone's life and making your community better, and you get to see the direct impact of your work.

Learn about different careers: Sometimes you can focus your community service in a field you may want to work in down the road. Some examples of this include volunteering at an animal shelter if you are thinking about becoming a veterinarian, working at a hospital if you want to be a doctor, or volunteering in a museum if you like history. The experience gained from community service can help you get an internship or job in the future, and it also gives you the opportunity to see how much you would really enjoy a particular career.

Personal growth: Doing community service has personal benefits as well. It often makes participants more organized, responsible, and compassionate, which are all good qualities to have, as well as qualities that both colleges and employers like to see in applicants.

MHMS Expectations

Students at Merrol Hyde Magnet School:

- 1) **Community Service with Distinction:** Students who document **80 community service hours** will be recognized at graduation. **Class of 2028:** To receive this distinction, you will need to complete 10 hours per semester (80 hours total). Hours must be documented by April 15th.

NOTE: MHMS does **NOT** require 80 hours of community service for graduation. However, as part of our school philosophy, it is expected that students will be contributing members of the community. There is no minimum amount. We want our students to focus on quality versus quantity.

- 2) **NHS:** Students must complete and document **15 service hours** per year as part of their membership requirements. Hours must be documented by April 15th.
- 3) **BETA:** Students must complete and document **10 service hours per year** as part of their membership requirements. These hours must include two Beta projects. Hours must be documented by April 15th.

The following guidelines must be followed to participate in activities that are considered acceptable for community service:

- **Community service is defined as non-paid volunteer work with a non-profit organization.** Hair salons, doctors' offices, physical therapy facilities, and most daycare centers are FOR PROFIT businesses and are not eligible.
- Students may begin accumulating hours as early as the summer before the 9th grade year.
- Campus clean-up will be capped at no more than 2 hours per year. Other campus projects like landscaping, painting or special projects could earn more hours.
- At least half of the service hours used for club membership or graduation designation should be for a single organization or cause.
- Short term mission trips, church camps, VBS and other faith-based causes will be capped at 10 hours total per year.
- At least 10% of the service hours used for club membership or graduation designation should be in support of MHMS.
- Tutoring is considered community service if the student is not paid for it.
- Hours must be documented on the MHMS Service log or on letterhead from the organization being served.
- Parents or family members cannot sign to verify their child's participation in a community service activity.

The following are some examples that would not count as community service hours:

- Rehearsal time for participation in a fine art or performing arts program.
- Practice time for sports or band.
- Club meetings to organize community service activities.
- Donating canned good items to gain community service hours. Organizing, collecting, counting, and delivering canned goods will be considered as service hours.