



S T. M A R Y ' S S P R I N G S
Academy

Preschool † Elementary † Middle † High School

September 12, 2018

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Dear High School Parents,

As we enter the second week of school, this letter and attached document are meant to serve as a reminder and clarification of the high school service requirements that were shared via the eLedger in August.

When we serve others with true love we grow closer to God, and this brings our lives deeper meaning, peace, and joy. With that in mind, SMSA strives to help high school students develop a habit of service. These requirements should be viewed as a template for building the virtue of charity, rather than just another checklist to complete.

Here is a summary of the requirements:

Each student in grades 9-12 will be required to complete 12 hours of approved service during the 2018-2019 school year, according to the following guidelines:

- A total of 12 hours must be submitted to X2VOL by May 24, 2019.
- At least 6 hours must be submitted to X2VOL by January 11, 2019.
- At least 6 of the 12 total hours must fall within the Direct Personal Service category.
- As these new requirements are introduced during the 18-19 school year, service projects completed during the summer of 2018 will be allowed to count toward the service requirement on a case-by-case basis.

The following pages detail the specific service requirements and expectations for the year ahead. Please read through the information carefully. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or the Servant Leadership Core Team Advisor, Mrs. Tammi Burkart (tburkart@smsacademy.org).

Sincerely,

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2018-2019 High School Service Requirements

Why do we serve?

- **We serve, because Jesus Christ has loved and served us first:** *“The way we came to know love was that he laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers” (1 John 3:16).*
- **We serve, because Jesus identifies himself with those who are disadvantaged:** *“Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:40).*
- **We serve, because Jesus shows us that true leadership is characterized by service:** *“Whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant... the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:26-28).*
- **We serve, because Jesus calls us to bring the good news of salvation to others:** *“As you go, make this proclamation: ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give” (Matthew 10:7-8).*

How do we serve?

- **With the help of Sacramental grace:** *“The Eucharist is the secret of my day. It gives strength and meaning to all my activities of service to the Church and to the whole world” (Saint John Paul II).*
- **By caring for the whole person:** *“We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked, and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty” (Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta).*
- **With generosity:** *“Never measure your generosity by what you give, but rather by what you have left” (Venerable Fulton Sheen).*
- **With joy:** *“If we wish to serve God and love our neighbor well, we must manifest our joy in the service we render to Him and them. Let us open wide our hearts. It is joy which invites us. Press forward and fear nothing” (Saint Katherine Drexel).*

What can we do to serve?

The Church challenges us to perform the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, which find their roots in Scripture and tradition. These basic acts of charity are a good guide for authentic Christian service. It is also helpful to be inspired by Catholic Social Teaching, which is a rich body of theological reflection and an application of the Gospel values to global ethical issues.

Corporal Works of Mercy	Spiritual Works of Mercy	Principles of Catholic Social Teaching
1. Feed the hungry 2. Give drink to the thirsty 3. Clothe the naked 4. Shelter the homeless 5. Visit the sick 6. Visit the imprisoned 7. Bury the dead	1. Admonish the sinner 2. Instruct the ignorant 3. Counsel the doubtful 4. Bear wrongs patiently 5. Forgive offenses willingly 6. Comfort the afflicted 7. Pray for the living and the dead	1. Life and dignity of the human person 2. Call to family, community, and participation 3. Rights and responsibilities 4. Option for the poor and vulnerable 5. The dignity of work and rights of workers 6. Solidarity 7. Care for God’s Creation



What are the high school service requirements?

Each student in grades 9-12 will be required to complete **12 hours of approved service** during the 2018-2019 school year, according to the following guidelines:

- At least 6 hours must fall within the Direct Personal Service category (explained below).
- At least 6 hours must be submitted to X2VOL by **January 11, 2019**.
- A total of 12 hours must be submitted to X2VOL by **May 24, 2019**.
- **As these new requirements are introduced during the 18-19 school year, service projects completed during the summer of 2018 will be allowed to count toward the service requirement on a case-by-case basis.**

What counts as approved service?

Acceptable service involves activities which benefit the greater Fond du Lac and southeast WI community, especially those members most in need. Service to family members, friends, and close neighbors will *not* count toward the service requirement, because those activities are a basic expectation of what it means to be a family member, friend, or neighbor. The objective of this service program is to challenge SMSA students to go above and beyond and make a difference in the broader community.

There are two categories of approved service:

1. Direct Personal Service (DPS)

This category includes activities in which a student interacts directly or personally with an individual or group of people who are disadvantaged, vulnerable, or in need. We encourage students to seek Christ in the people they serve by engaging in face-to-face interactions and developing meaningful relationships. Examples include:

- Volunteer at a local meal program and visit with the guests
- Work on a Habitat for Humanity building project and visit with the family
- Spend time with the elderly (who are non-family members) in nursing homes and centers
- Volunteer as a mentor at youth organizations
- Work with those who have special developmental or physical needs

2. Indirect Service (IS)

This category includes activities in which a student promotes the common good, but does not directly interact with a person or group of people who are disadvantaged. Examples include:

- Volunteer for various SMSA events such as Phone-a-thon, Swing Fore Springs, Ladies of the Ledge, etc.
- Run a fundraiser at school that benefits a community organization (internal fundraisers do not count)
- Volunteer for a liturgical ministry at your parish, such as server, reader, choir member

Can I count service that I do with a sports team, club, or other organization?

The high school service requirement is 12 hours of approved service. Any service hours completed with an athletic team, club, or other organization (i.e., Key Club, NHS, parish confirmation requirements) may also be used to satisfy the SMSA service requirement, so long as the service activity fits within the approved categories and is recorded properly on X2VOL. The only exception pertains to the High School Service Day (see page 3). The hours from this day cannot be counted toward the 12 hour individual requirement. Please note that clubs might have their own specific service requirements.



Service for Theology Classes

Students may also be required to complete service reflections as a part of their theology curriculum. Completion of service hours for these projects can count toward the 12 hour requirement, *so long as the project fits into the approved categories and the hours are properly recorded on X2VOL.*

Service with Athletic Teams

Starting this year, each athletic team will complete a service project together as a team. Hours accrued through participation in these projects can count toward the 12 hour requirement, *so long as the project fits into the approved categories and the hours are properly recorded on X2VOL.*

How do I find approved service opportunities and record my hours?

Approved service opportunities will be posted on **X2VOL**, an online platform that will be used to track and approve all service hours. This platform allows students to view a running total of completed service hours and an approved list of upcoming service opportunities. We hope to provide students with a quarterly report regarding the status of their hours.

X2VOL Setup and Orientation

All students will be led through a comprehensive setup and orientation for using the x2VOL program during their respective orientation times prior to the beginning of the school year. Each student will access the program with their individual school emails and personally chosen password.

Approving “non-listed” Service Hours

For service not listed on X2VOL, students will need to seek prior approval from the Office of Campus Ministry via the X2VOL platform and provide a compelling reason why the activity should be approved. A project that isn't approved *prior* to completing the service, may or may not be approved upon completion of that service. **The Office of Campus Ministry reserves the right to accept or decline any service work submitted.**

Servant Leadership Core Team

The Servant Leadership Core Team works with the Director of Campus Ministry and the Core Team Advisor to plan, coordinate, and promote the High School Service Day, regular high school service events, and system-wide service activities. The Core Team is open to all students in grades 9-12. Core Team members will meet regularly during Ledger activity period and after school. **The first meeting date and time is TBD.**

High School Service Day: Date TBD

Organized by the Servant Leadership Core Team, the entire high school will spend a portion of one day during second semester serving in the community and reflecting upon the meaning of service. *The service hours from this day to not count toward the 12 hour requirement.*

Servant Leadership Award

As Ledgers, we strive for excellence. Any student who completes 60 or more hours of approved service between September 4, 2018 – May 1, 2019 will qualify for the Servant Leadership Award. This prestigious award will be presented to all eligible students at the year-end awards ceremony in May, 2019.