

## Service Learning FAQ's

### **Q: Who needs to complete service hours?**

**A:** It is the duty of all to perform service for those in need! At St. James School, a specific requirement is made of upper level students who, often, can be more independent in offering service. Eighth grade students are asked to complete 10 hours between August and May; seventh grade students, 7 hours, and Sixth grade, 5 hours.

### **Q: What do you mean when you ask for service hours?**

**A:** Service hours include activities that benefit others through time, talent, or treasure. When a student take their own time, despite other demands that they have tugging on their time, to babysit free of charge, help at a senior citizen home, or, tutor schoolmates, that is service. If you serve, play an instrument, read the Word, or sing at Mass, that is service. If you think of a cause that needs support, develop the idea, make flyers, collect and count money, that is service.

### **Q: How do I know if my service will “count”?**

**A:** In terms of the SJS school requirement, it would be wise to consult with a teacher, Mrs. Pappas, or Mrs. Farrell to get the project approved. When service is completed, the student fills out a form with a few questions and turn it in to their homeroom teacher.

### **Q: What doesn't “count”?**

**A:** Things like babysitting *for pay*, serving Mass during school hours, or completing a regular household chore wouldn't count. The goal is for students to go beyond their comfort zone, perhaps beyond their own neighborhood, to realize that so many people need us to step forward and give. At the same time, the hope is that students will realize how they have been gifted with comforts in their own lives that others will never experience, creating a sense of gratitude and willingness to help others.

### **Q: So what are the key things I must keep in mind about service?**

**A:** Service is given from the heart. It is done on our own time and there is no compensation for completing it. It can be a onetime service or something a student does over time---weekly, monthly,... And the service must be documented on the proper form.

### **Q: What if I am already performing service? Does it “count”?**

**A:** Of course! Most anything you do outside of school hours can be considered. All of these things “count”

- \*Non-school Mass Altar Serving
- \*Girl/Boy Scout Projects
- \*Cantor practices or cantoring at non-school Masses
- \*Volunteering at Sunday School
- \*Greeting/ushering at weekend Masses

\*Student Council/NJHS activities during non-school hours

**Q:I don't know what other service I can do. Do you have suggestions?**

**A:**Sometimes things you really like to do can benefit others.

- If you like to bake or cook, you might have an elderly neighbor or very busy mom who would appreciate a treat from you!
- Those who like to read might offer reading books to younger neighborhood children or a senior citizen who has bad eyesight.
- Is there a neighbor who could use help raking leaves or shoveling snow?
- Have you ever thought of visiting a senior citizens' home to help play bingo or cards?
- Does a busy neighbor need their car washed?
- What about making cards or writing a letter to neighbors who don't get out much?

Consider the following opportunities

- St. James Christmas Bazaar (November)  
Contact: Mrs. Jane Jones 224.345.7145 [jjones@stjameschoolah.org](mailto:jjones@stjameschoolah.org)
- St. James Loaves & Fishes Ministry  
Contact: Geralyn & Kevin Walsh 847.392.8034 [geralynbw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:geralynbw@sbcglobal.net)
- St. James Haunted House (October)  
Contact:
- Little Sisters of the Poor  
Contact
- Lutheran Home  
Contact: (866) 523-9510
- St. James St. Vincent DePaul Society  
Contact:
- St. James PADS  
Contact:
- Arlington Heights Public Library  
Contact: