Dear Parents/Guardians,

In an effort to encourage our students to think of others, St. Mary of the Assumption School is beginning a service hours program for our junior high students. This service fits into our religion curriculum.

The number of hours and where the service may be completed vary by grade level:

**6th grade requirements**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Total Hrs. Required for the school year | Service atHome | Service at School/in the Parish | Service in the Community |
| 12 | 4 | 4 | 4 |

**7th grade requirements**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Total Hrs. Required for the school year | Service at School/in the Parish | Service in the Community |
| 16 | Up to 12 hrs. may be completed at school/parish | At least 4 hrs. must be completed in the community |

**8th grade requirements**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Total Hrs. Required for the school year | Service at School/in the Parish | Service in the Community |
| 20 | Up to 10 hrs. may be completed at school/parish | At least 10 hrs. must be completed in the community |

**Examples of types of service that will work for each category**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Home\* | School/Parish | Community |
| * Spending a Saturday helping clean out the garage
* Time spent collecting items at home to donate to charity
* Cleaning a grandparent’s house
 | * Participation in the following groups’ activities:
	+ Preschool Pals
	+ Caring Angels
	+ Faithbuilders
	+ Student Council
	+ Grace Notes
	+ Knightly News
	+ Altar server
	+ Festival work
	+ Helping Hands
	+ Rosary making
 | * Parish Day of Service
* St. Pat’s soup kitchen
* Safety Town
* Holden Arboretum
* A community fundraiser
* Shovel/rake for elderly neighbors
* Food banks
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*\*It is important to note that things such as emptying the dishwasher, helping with laundry, cutting the grass, do not count towards the service hours. Part of being in a family is helping around the house, doing chores, etc.*

Each quarter the students are required to have completed a minimum number of hours towards their yearly total. The service may be in any combination of categories, but by the end of the year, each category must be completed.

**Minimum total of hours turned in by the end of each quarter**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Grade | Qtr. 1 | Qtr. 2 | Qtr. 3 | Qtr. 4 |
| 6th | Minimum of 3 | At least 6 accumulated | At least 9 accumulated | At least 12 accumulated |
| 7th | Minimum of 4 | At least 8 accumulated | At least 12 accumulated | At least 16 accumulated |
| 8th | Minimum of 5 | At least 10 accumulated | At least 15 accumulated | At least 20 accumulated |

Service hours will be incorporated into the religion grade. Service hours will represent 10% of the religion grade each quarter. Since the students will be informed/reminded of the due date each quarter, the “assignment” will be considered late if the student does not turn in the recording sheets by homeroom on the mornings they are due. It is suggested that students turn in the recording sheets as they are earned to ensure the service completed is acceptable and will be counted towards the service hours’ requirement.

A service hours recording sheet (attached) must be completed by the student and the appropriate adult. Additional recording sheets will be on RenWeb as well as in the religion classrooms.

Each student will have his/her own file in the religion teacher’s room. Before placing any service hours recording sheets into his/her file, the student must get the religion teacher’s approval of the hours and have the recording sheet signed. After it is signed by the teacher, the service hours will be applied toward the student’s service hours for the quarter. Approximately once a week the hours will be tallied and entered into RenWeb’s service hours tracker, allowing parents and students to keep an eye on the hours needed before the end of each quarter.

Please note, the required number of hours is a minimum for each student. We encourage students to seek out additional opportunities and complete recording sheets for all service completed during the school year. Summer service hours will count towards the following school year.

We are looking forward to our students impacting others with their selflessness and their sharing of their time and talents.

Please feel free to contact any of the junior high teachers with questions.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Antos, Mrs. McDonnell, Mrs. Novogurski, Mrs. Brogan, Mr. Fekete, Mrs. Betley

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.

1Peter 4:15