

## Service hours

### Introduction/reasoning:

Because service to the local church and community is an important expression of Christian charity, and because teaching how to serve others is part of the mission of Catholic education, all HTC students, regardless of faith tradition, will be required to perform service hours as part of their requirements for graduation. Students will be required to complete service hours at their church and/or at approved organizations and events.

### Requirements:

- 7th and 8th Grades
  - At least 10 hours of service is required per year
  - For students receiving the Catholic parish membership discount, a minimum of 5 hours per year must be in service to the student's parish.
    - Service at 1 parish Mass would equal 1 hour.
  - Students not receiving the Catholic parish membership discount, are encouraged to serve their own church or faith community.
  - Students must write a 150 word reflection paper each semester.
- 9th-12th Grades
  - At least 80 hours of service are required for graduation
    - At least 20 hours per year
  - For students receiving the Catholic parish membership discount, a minimum of 40 hours must be in service to the student's parish.
    - At least 10 hours per year
  - Students not receiving the Catholic parish membership discount, are encouraged to serve their church or faith community.
  - Students would write a 300 word reflection paper each semester.
  - 9th Graders may count their school hours toward Confirmation service hours.

### Tracking:

High School Theology teacher tracks service hours and reflection papers as part of the theology class grade. Service hours and reflection papers will account for 20% of the class grade. A silver cord included in their regalia at graduation will recognize students who complete 100 or more hours during 9th-12th grade. If the service hour requirement is not met in 7th and 8th grades, the unmet hours will roll over into the high school requirement. Unmet 7th and 8th grade hours will not contribute to the 100 hours needed for recognition at graduation. The hour requirement will be prorated during implementation and for transfer students.

Verification: Students will be required to have a supervising adult provide sign and provide contact information on a form provided by the school for the verification of service hours.

The school will provide a list of approved events, organizations and locations which will be published in the student handbook. Requests to count unapproved service hours will be considered on a case by case basis by the theology teacher and parish pastor, if needed.

School Masses and service performed during school hours do not count. Any service done for profit does not count.

### Examples:

#### Parish Hours:

Service at Mass: 1 hour

NCYC and related fundraising: 10 hours

Fall Festivals and God's Portion Day

Youth Group Service Projects

#### Non-Parish Hours:

Rodeo: Cap at 10 hours per year for high school and 5 hours per year for junior high.