



ST. MICHAEL HIGH SCHOOL CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROGRAM

Purpose of the Program: To provide for the kinds of powerful interpersonal experiences that can change the hearts of our students and teach them to readily see the dignity of every human person, while living out Christ’s call to serve.

Service Organizations: To count towards the required minimum number of service hours, service activities must be completed at organizations listed on the SMHS website. To add a non-profit organization to the list or to have a service activity/organization pre-approved, please contact the Religion Department Chairperson or Campus Minister. Agencies must already be listed on the SMHS website at the time the students do the service. If the organization is not listed, students should seek pre-approval before completing service.

Requirements: Students are encouraged to engage in two types of hours:

- **Direct Hours** - involve **direct face to face human interaction** with and service to those who are disabled, poor, elderly, handicapped or disadvantaged. **These direct hours are required of each student** (see chart below) and reflect the Gospel call of Jesus in Matthew 25 to help “the least among us,” or most in need.
 - Certain Pro-Life activities can count as “direct hours” - such as participating physically in a pro-life walk, prayer outside a clinic, etc. This is due to the importance of this injustice and lack of face to face opportunities to serve for our students. Other walks (hunger, cancer, etc) will count as indirect hours, because students can interact with this injustice more directly.
- **Indirect Hours** - involve any number of good works where students provide assistance and service with community organizations, church, or school.

These hours do not involve direct human interaction with the poor, elderly or handicapped.

 - **One indirect hour may be done at home, for the student’s family.** Examples would be helping with needs within students’ home without pay.
 - Tutoring or helping others outside an organization will not count towards indirect hours. Specific exceptions can be made with approval of Theology Teacher.
 - This is to encourage students to live Mother Teresa’s words, “If you want to change the world, go home and love your family.” *The hour done within the family will NOT count as direct hours.*

YEAR IN SCHOOL	TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS REQUIRED	NUMBER OF DIRECT HOURS MUST BE AT LEAST
Freshmen	10	5 <i>(all done through theology classes)</i>
Sophomore	15	6 <i>(3 done through theology classes)</i>
Junior	20	7
Senior	25	8

***direct hours above reflect reduction in 2021-2022, due to Covid restrictions.

COVID Policy: As we evaluate the opportunities for direct hours with the pandemic restrictions, Theology teachers may offer opportunities for service that will count as direct hours, if the need arises.

Documentation:

- All documentation will be turned in to student's theology teacher by December and April deadlines (see below).
- Students must record service hours on a **cover sheet** each semester and provide **letterhead documentation/printed email** of their service hours from the organization where they completed their hours.
- Documentation must contain the name and contact information of the person who supervised the service.
 - A student's family hour may be signed on the cover sheet by a family member.
 - The Missionaries of Charity at St. Agnes have a roster sheet and letterhead for all students from St. Michael. Please ask them for this.

Special Items:

- **Freshmen:** Freshmen will complete their "Direct Hours" through activities coordinated in their Religion classes.
- **Sophomores** (2021-2022 only): Sophomores will complete half of their "Direct Hours" through activities coordinated in their Religion classes.
- **Seniors:** During their senior year, students will focus at least FOUR of their required hours with a specific injustice/topic. From this experience, students will prepare their Senior Social Justice Project

Deadlines:

- Half of the total hours required is due December 6.
- The remainder of service hours are due April 25.
- If students want to be considered for service awards, hours must be turned in by April 14.
- Student will not be allowed to take any semester exams until their service hours are complete and turned in.
- Recognition: Students who go above and beyond the requirements are recognized at the Christian Service Mass each spring. The categories for these recognitions are as follows:
 - Bronze Award – 10 hours above the minimum requirements
 - Silver Award – 25 hours above the minimum requirements
 - Gold Award – 50 hours above the minimum requirements

Questions about Service Program:

- Religion Department Chair – Mrs Wetzzel / hwetzel@smhsbr.org
- Campus Ministry – Mrs. Froeba / efroeba@smhsbr.org

In ministerium, Warriors SERVE LIKE CHRIST!