

Dear rising 7th grade parents,

We are writing to explain to you about the community service requirement for 7th grade students. Our goal is to have the HTS community respond to those in need with high quality direct service. We want to teach students to include those who are excluded in greater society. We want the children to learn how to collaborate and work well with and for others.

During 7th Grade, we are requiring that students participate in **4 direct service or service learning events**. We will have 2 service field trips during the school day next year, so the students will only have to participate in 2 direct service events outside of school, although more are certainly fine. The service hours must be complete by the end of the school year in June. The hours should total to about 12 hours (think quality over quantity). Moreover, if your child is going to be confirmed, 4 additional service activities are required by 8th grade.

After serving, please document your child's service activities using the [form](#) on Ms. Brady's homework page or the Holy Trinity School community service page. The forms will be checked at the end of every quarter. Students will also write a reflection paper about their service for religion class in the spring.

Here are some ideas of what direct service for the marginalized means: ([I also have a more detailed list of specific service opportunities students have participated in last year - click here](#))

- **Direct Service:**
 - Serve at an agency or school that options for the socio-economically disadvantaged
 - Help out with [Holy Trinity parish service programs](#) that serve the greater marginalized community
 - See events on parish web page and sign up for their social justice e-newsletter. Often these events revolve around holidays (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Earth Day)
 - Ongoing events are serving at S.O.M.E. every 4th Sunday of the month and Mike Conway's weekend meals. Contact <cpatrickmccourt@netscape.net> and <mikeconway72@gmail.com> to be added to the email list.
 - Peer-modelling with individuals who have autism, are physically or mentally, intellectually, or developmentally challenged. Comforting those who are lonely, grieving, sick, or elderly.
 - Care for Creation → Clean up at Rock Creek Park, gleaning, gardening, etc.
- **Advocacy:**
 - Advocate for marginalized groups by helping out at an advocacy event, such as a walk, 5K, or a fundraiser to raise awareness. There are many social service agencies in the city that advocate for the marginalized.
- **Service Learning:**
 - Spark the Wave camp, Youth Service Opportunities Project, Workcamp, Leadership Training Program DC, Girl Scout / Boy Scout service activities.
- **Prayer, Reflection, and Parish Service:**

- Cantor, altar server, lector, RE assistant

Even though the following activities are great things to do, they do not count for the 4 service “events.”

They do count for general HTS service hours:

- School service at HTS or at a different school (unless it's at a school for underserved students like San Miguel School, Don Bosco Cristo Rey, Washington Jesuit Academy, Washington School for Girls).
- Volunteer babysitting
- Summer camp counselor (unless campers are from the marginalized community)

Additionally, we would like to emphasize that we are not going out here to “save” people. We are going to serve so we can walk with all, learn from them, and remind the ourselves and the children that we all belong to each other. We are educating people for and with others.

Thank you for serving with your child and helping HTS help the greater community!

Blessings,

Colleen Brady

<p>Direct Service & Service Learning Hours</p> <p>Students should serve at service sites that help the greater DC community 4 times. It is okay if they serve at different sites.</p>	+	<p>School/other service hours</p> <p>HTS strives to live out the Jesuit motto, Students for Others. Students are expected to help out at school, in the parish, and in their neighborhoods.</p>	=	<p>12+ hours</p> <p><small>*The more hours, the better! Students will earn a service award at the end of 8th grade if they complete over 100 hours in 7th and 8th grade.</small></p>
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