

## **Student Volunteer Service 20 Hour Graduation Requirement**

Community involvement is critical to success in education. Students who participate in community service build an awareness of society and make a connection between classroom and real world issues. Student service is a method through which students learn about and develop a commitment to addressing needs in their own community. As a graduation requirement it provides students with the opportunity to develop a long lasting sense of responsibility to society.

Students learn and develop through active participation through volunteering that is conducted in and meets the needs of a community. Students can provide service in the community, school, non-profit organizations, charitable and governmental organizations.

All volunteer hours must be documented on the approved Student Volunteer Service Form and submitted to the District Coordinator's office for approval. Hours must be turned in by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month following an event. Hours will not be accepted from previous years or hours that were not turned in on time. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain and return the Student Service form to the District Coordinator's office. Forms that are not filled out correctly will be returned to the student. Hours will be posted each month outside the high school office on the volunteer board. Students may start earning volunteer hours as soon as they are promoted to ninth grade. All hours for graduation must be completed one week prior to graduation.

The number of service hours that are earned cannot be doubled or in any way increased by any agency or school for student participation in a specific project.

### **What qualifies as volunteer service:**

- School coordinated activities.
- Community/Non-Profit based organizational activity.

### **What won't qualify:**

- Paid service.
- Service for a For-Profit business.
- Service that earns school credit or service during school hours.
- Religious instruction.
- Political activities or activities intended to persuade/influence others.
- Service that is directed to benefit a family member.
- Mandatory service as a result of disciplinary action taken by a school or courts.

Students graduating in the following years will be allowed to complete the requirements using the scale below.

The graduating class of 2010 - five hours of service, Class of 2011 - ten hours of service, and the class of 2012 - fifteen hours of service. All graduating class's thereafter will be required to complete the full twenty hours during their high school career.