

Dear Middle School Families,

Service is an important aspect of our Christian life. We are called to show our love for God in both word and action. One way we show God we love Him is by loving our neighbor as Jesus taught us to. Service for others not only benefits the person being served, but helps us to grow in character, conviction, and understanding.

We are requiring all of our middle school students to work on developing a life of service by meeting a goal of 4 ½ hours of service per semester. Their service hours will be broken down into three categories: family, parish/school, and community. They will need to complete a minimum of 90 minutes of service in each of these areas. To be considered as service, the student should not receive payment or other rewards for the time they are offering, and it should be something that is not part of their daily responsibilities. There is a form to be filled out after each service opportunity which includes a reflection of their time and experiences. These forms will then be turned in to their homeroom teachers. Service hours will not be graded. Instead a comment will be put on each student's report card regarding completion of hours for each semester. Incomplete hours will be added to the next semester or year. By the end of 8<sup>th</sup> grade, students will need a total of 27 service hours as a graduation requirement. Those who meet or exceed this goal will be recognized at graduation. Students who do not complete the 27-hour requirement will not be allowed to participate in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class trip. All forms for first semester will be due by Friday, January 13th. Forms for second semester will be due by Friday, May 12th. Extra copies of the forms can be found on the school website or in the middle school classrooms. Forms need to be filled out completely. The top portion must be filled out before the supervising adult signs it and the entire page filled out before parents sign it. Completed forms must be turned in within two weeks of completing the service activity.

Students may count any service done over the summer, but must turn in completed forms for summer service by Friday, September 30th. When they have met their goal for the first semester, they can begin working on the second semester, but they should write "second semester" at the top of the form so it won't get added in the first semester totals. Those who serve on safety patrol can count 10 minutes for each morning or afternoon of service. They do not have to turn in a separate form for each day, but may turn in a total for all safety patrol minutes once a month.

We have included a list of possible service ideas. This is a great opportunity to live out our call to service of God.

Mrs. Engelbert, Mrs. Ratchman, and Miss. Gomez

***N2387 Municipal Drive Greenville, WI 54942 –7801 920-757-6555 x2***

***As members of the Body of Christ, we at St. Mary learn, love, and serve***