

# Community Service Hours Guidelines

The CPHS Service Learning program grew out of the recognition that service to the school and to the community provides a valuable learning experience for young people. A service experience fosters responsibility, encourages compassion for others, and instills a desire to participate in society as active citizens.

The goal of the program is two-fold, comprised of a service and an educational component. The 'service' goals include engaging youth with persons of all ages and providing needed hands to school personnel and community agencies. The 'learning' goals include increasing student awareness of social and political issues, enabling them to explore areas of career interest, and cultivating personal growth as they develop reliability maturity, promptness, sensitivity and the recognition that they can make a difference.

Each student must complete 40 hours of community service by the end of 12<sup>th</sup> grade to be eligible for graduation. It is **suggested** that you complete five hours per semester but not mandatory. Hours can be **completed anytime throughout the course of high school prior to graduation.** If you are a new student, community service obligations are based on current grade enrollment. For example: incoming freshmen need to complete 40 hours, sophomore's 30, juniors 20, seniors 10.

## Service Learning Guidelines:

Ideally, service projects move students into the community to:

- provide a real benefit to the community to:
- enhance student learning,
- develop student civic engagement skills,
- expose students to community issues and organizations, and
- expand student career choices.

## The following examples demonstrate what can and what cannot qualify for Service Learning Credit:

**APPROVED:** A student or group of students, works with a teacher to implement a unit by providing input on curriculum, tutoring assistance, observing and delivering a lesson and debriefing the experience with the teacher. AND/OR... A student or group of students in a math class may work with a coach or gather statistical data and provide regular reports. These statistics ideally become information that the math teacher utilizes to enhance learning in the classroom.

**NOT APPROVED:** A student or group of students, working and receiving pay for their services.

All community service should be done for a non-profit organization.

## Getting Started:

Step 1: Decide what type of activity you would like to do or what **non-profit organization.**

Step 2: Contact the agency and apply/volunteer to serve.

Step 3: Take this (reverse side) form to the perspective supervisor and complete with appropriate signatures.

Step 4: Return the "Community Service Form" to the Main Office after completion of service rendered.

## Community Service Course:

If a student wishes to earn high school credit for Community Service for Graduation Pathway purposes, they must check the box at the bottom of the Community Service Form (reverse side). An unweighted "A" and credit will be added to the transcript for any student who successfully completes Community Service (IDOE Course #0524) and checks the corresponding box.