

## PHILOSOPHY of CHRISTIAN SERVICE

*“A Holy Cross education is a process which ... finds its best expression as service to others rendered by those with hope to bring.” –Shared Vision, HC Handbook*

A few years after founding the Congregation of Holy Cross in France, Blessed Basile Moreau sent members of the congregation to serve in Asia, Africa and North America. As a result Catholic social justice has always been a hallmark of a Holy Cross education. It is in the spirit of the mission and vision of Blessed Basile Moreau that Holy Cross students are required to serve the community in Christian service each year.

## CHRISTIAN SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

**Community service is not the same thing as “working without pay.” It is work done for the good of the greater community, e.g. for disadvantaged individuals, soup kitchens, food pantries, homeless shelters, hospitals, nursing homes, recreational centers, animal shelters, churches, and schools. Service in profit-making activities DO NOT qualify as community service. Work done for your immediate family and neighbors is acceptable only for Middle School students.**

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

6<sup>th</sup> grade: 6 hours of service

7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grades: 10 hours of service

#### **Please note:**

- To satisfy the Christian service requirement, students may serve their neighbors, school, church, their elderly family members and local community organizations.
- Students must fill out and submit the *Christian Service Time Sheet* to keep a record of their hours. Forms are available from Theology teachers and from the Director of Christian Service Program. Completed forms are turned in to the Theology teacher or to the Director of Christian Service Program.

#### **Middle School Deadlines:**

- For each 9-week grading period there are required hours that need to be completed. Failure to complete the hours will result in a failing grade.
  - 2 hours for Grade 6; 3 hours for Grades 7 & 8
  - The failing grade may cause the student to become ineligible for extracurricular activities (band, athletics, cheerleading, etc.). Make up hours can be done during the week following report card distribution, after which the grade will be changed.
- All hours must be complete by:
  - 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> grades: May 7
  - 8<sup>th</sup> grade: May 1

## REPORTING OF SERVICE HOURS

Service hours are recorded on **RenWeb**. Parents/students may see how many hours that they currently have by going to the **RenWeb Family Information tab** where one can find the student(s) listed. Then go to the **Service Hours tab**. The hours listed are the total hours for the student’s year(s) at Holy Cross. Service hours are also reported on progress reports and report cards.

## CHRISTIAN SERVICE GUIDELINES

- Students are required to obtain their community service hour forms from their Theology teacher, the Director of Christian Service Program or the school website [www.holycross-sa.org](http://www.holycross-sa.org), under “Academics” and “Christian Service.”
- Forms and Service Opportunities can be found on the website at <http://www.holycross-sa.org/Christian-Service.aspx>.
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- To ensure that the service a student is completing meets the requirements of the school, students are highly encouraged to receive approval from their Theology teacher or the Director of Christian Service before beginning their service projects.
- Through Theology class, students will complete a reflection paper at the end of each 9 weeks which will count for a grade. Failure to complete this assignment can lead to a failing grade in Theology.
- Students must submit their completed service hour form to the Director of Christian Service as soon as the service project is completed so that their hours may be properly recorded in **RenWeb**.
- **RenWeb** will be updated regularly. Students should regularly check on their service hours via **RenWeb**. Parents/students may see how many hours that they currently have by going to the **RenWeb Family Information tab** where one can find the student(s) listed. Then go to the **Service Hours tab**. The hours listed are the total hours for the student's year(s) at Holy Cross of San Antonio.
- **All service hours must be submitted to the Director of Christian Service Program before students' service hours can qualify for the Presidential Service Award**
- **In the spirit of volunteerism it is important that all service must be completed without pay.**
- No credit will be awarded to students who complete service during the normal school hours unless pre-approved by the Director of Christian Service Program.
- Service Hours will not be given for assigned Saturday School.
- Service Hours will not be given for work at class, team, or fundraising projects.
- Completing more than the minimum amount of hours required will not excuse a student from the following years service requirement. Each year, students will have to complete the minimum requirement for Christian Service.
- **Students may begin their service requirement during the summer before the school year beginning on June 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Failure to meet the end-of-the-year deadlines:**

- Students who fail to meet the deadline for submitting service hours for each grading period or at the end of the year will receive a failing grade in Theology. This will require a student to take a Service Oriented Summer School Program (\$150).
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will not be eligible for graduation if their service requirement is incomplete.

**ANY EXCEPTIONS TO THE ABOVE LISTED GUIDELINES CAN ONLY BE MADE BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROGRAM or THE THEOLOGY TEACHER.**

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_