**SERVICE**

**ST.THOMAS HIGH SCHOOL**



***“A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love.”***

***― Saint Basil***

**SERVICE OVERVIEW**

St. Thomas High School is a college preparatory school for young men, educating each in their mind and body, with the Gospel values of Jesus Christ at its foundation. We strive to produce an environment that allows each student to develop the fullness of his Christian potential, not only in the classroom, sports, or extracurricular activities, but in service to the community as a whole.

There is a yearly service requirement for all grade levels.  **Students are encouraged to complete their service hours during the summer.**  ***The hours done in the summer prior to the year they are attending count for the upcoming academic school year.*** Those hours will go directly to the upcoming year. Please keep in mind the severity of completing required hours in a timely manner through our new online X2VOL system. These requirements must be met prior to graduation to receive their diplomas.

**HOUR REQUIREMENTS:**

**FRESHMEN: 10 hours**

* We ask that 50 % of hours be completed volunteering at St. Thomas or in the community.
* We ask that 50% of hours be completed working for a faith based organization
* Student may pick a variety of places located in the xVOL2
* In the event student has another place of choice, it is the students responsibility *prior to going to place of choice to get Dr. Alex Gotay approval first*
* ***Carrying Over:*** For Freshman and Sophomore years, hours are NOT allowed to be carried over.
  + However, *Summer hours done prior to academic year will count for said upcoming academic year and will NOT count to meet requirements for the next academic year* 
    - *example: Student does 40 hours in the summer prior to their Freshman year of High School. Those hours will count towards meeting the Freshman year goal but not their Sophomore year goal. Student will have to do 20 hours to meet their Sophomore year requirement. Again, student can choose to do those hours in the summer prior to their upcoming sophomore academic year.*

**SOPHOMORES:20**

* We ask that 50 % of hours be completed volunteering at St. Thomas or in the community.
* We ask that 50% of hours be completed working for a faith based organization
* *Student may pick a variety of places located in the xVOL2*
* In the event student has another place of choice, it is the students responsibility *prior to going to place of choice to get Dr. Alex Gotay approval first*
* ***Carrying Over: For Freshman and Sophomore years only*, hours are NOT allowed to be carried over.** 
  + However, *Summer hours done prior to academic year will count for said upcoming academic year and will NOT count to meet requirements for the next academic year* 
    - *example: Student does 40 hours in the summer prior to Freshman year of High School. Those hours will count towards meeting their upcoming Freshman year goal but NOT their Sophomore year goal. Student will have to do 20 hours to meet their Sophomore year requirement. Again, student can choose to do those hours in the summer prior to their upcoming sophomore academic year.*

**JUNIORS AND SENIORS: 70 hours total (between both years)**

* *Student must pick one organization to total number of hours (*Example of: Mission Trip, Camp Blessing, etc.)
* In the event student has another place of choice, it is the students responsibility *prior to going to place of choice to get Dr. Alex Gotay approval first*
* ***Carrying Over from Junior to Senior year:* hours ARE allowed to be carried over from Junior to Senior Year.** 
  + *example: Student does 70 hours in the summer prior to their Junior year on a mission trip. . Those hours WILL count towards meeting both their Junior and Senior year service requirement goals.*
* *Reflection 2 page paper. (MLA format) answering these questions: What impacted you the most about your serving throughout your time at St. Thomas? Explain, How do you think service has impacted you and the community you served? Explain.*

**TOTAL = 100 and reflection paper**

The aim of allowing the young men to serve in this capacity is not for the sake of collecting hours but rather to be the “hands and feet” of God to God’s people. Each young man will go through rigorous hours of theological content, and being of service to the community allows each to put into action what he has learned. Serving as such allows the young men to be transformed as “heralds” of the good news. This is why the program is divided as such:

**School Service/Community Service:** at least 50% of hours

* This would consist of hours completed helping at St. Thomas. Students will have opportunities to serve at major school events such as Camp Aquinas, Open House, New Eagle welcome, Registration night, Parent Teacher conferences, in house tutors (NHS), peer mentoring programs (Senior Leaders), and the Eagle Ambassador program, as well as the various all school masses that take place throughout the academic year.
* Service may also be completed outside of St. Thomas, such as: helping coach a sports team, working at Memorial Park, etc.

**Christian/ Faith Based Service:** at least 50% of all hours need to come from faith based organizations.

* Volunteering at faith based organizations are:
  + Camp Blessing
  + Houston Food Bank
  + Meals on wheels
  + Mission Trips
  + Loaves and Fishes
  + Etc.

*These standards are will begin 2019-2020 academic school year. Hours done prior to this academic school year will carry over. In the event the young man does not have the adequate hours corresponding to the year that they were in, it is acceptable. Hours done prior to this academic school year does not have to meet the new standard. However, moving forward the young man is required to meet standards beginning the 2019-2020 academic school year.*

**FAILURE TO MEET REQUIREMENTS**

In the event that students do not meet their service requirements by their Junior and Senior year student will have two options:

1. Attend the *30 hour fast challenge* held at STH.
2. A meeting with President Fr. Murphy, Dr. Aaron Dominquez about students eligibility to continue education at St. Thomas HIgh School. Expelsion is one of the alternatives.

**DOCUMENTING HOURS:**

We are moving to an online system named X2VOL.

**X2VOL Service Program:**

* <https://www.x2vol.com/index.html>

**SERVICE AWARDS:**

* Students who achieve X plus hours of service by the end of their senior year will be honored at graduation.
* The student who receives the most hours in the school will get some additional honour.

**POSSIBLE EVENTS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE (in school and not limited too):**

1. ***30 Hour Fast Challenge:***

<https://www.30hourfamine.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=585>

**Date:** Beginning of January

**Time:** 8:00 am Friday-Saturday 1:00 pm.

**Event:** Students would fast the entire day of school, spend the night in Cemo, wake up the next morning and work at the Houston food bank and then return to school for a B.B.Q. During the fast there would be snacks and games available as well as a prayer program for students to partake in.

**Hours Received:** TBD

2. ***Service Week at the Houston Food Bank!***

* **Date:** August 12-16
* **Time:** TBD
* **Event:** Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors will spend time at the Food Bank the first week of school.
* **Hours Received:** TBD

3. ***Memorial Park Project***

* **Date:** TBD
* **Time:** TBD
* **Event:** TBD
* **Hours Received:** TBD

4. ***Athletic Night Special Olympics Night***

* **Date:** TBD
* **Time:** TBD
* **Event:** TBD
* **Hours Received:** TBD

5***. St. Nicholas Toy Delivery***

* **Date:** TBD
* **Time:** TBD
* **Event:** TBD
* **Hours Received:** TBD

***6. Best Buddies:*** <https://www.bestbuddies.org/texas/>

* **Date:** TBD
* **Time:** TBD
* **Event:** TBD
* **Hours Received:** TBD

7. ***Star of Hope***

* Dates: TBD
* Times: TBD
* Hours Received: 4 hours

8. ***Casa Juan Diego***

* [Email-](mailto:Email-dmccarty@cjd.org)
* [dmccarty@cjd.org](mailto:Email-dmccarty@cjd.org)
* [info@cjd.org](mailto:info@cjd.org)
* Times:
  + Saturdays- 9am-12noon
    - Can stay and have lunch
    - Stay up until 2pm
  + Everyday except for Sunday.
* They have to be so formal, so supposed to be flexible!

9. ***Magnificat House: Loaves and Fishes***

* Volunteer Coordinators:
  + Larry Crownin 7138240344
  + Super Visor DJ Johnson- 3467157764
    - Closed on Monday
    - Call leave a voice message (if don’t answer)
    - Then text

10. The Center for Hearing and Speech

* *Bernice Espinoza*
* 7135208257 (cell)
* *Will be uploaded to xVOL2*

11. St. Dominic Village

Archdiocesan Retirement Home

2401 Holcombe Blvd

* Go to website:
  + [www.stdominicvillage.org](http://www.stdominicvillage.org)
  + Go to application

12. The Guild Shop of St. John the Divine

*Cashiers, Pricers, Sales and Donation Sorters*

2009 Dunlavy St.

7135285095

Contact: Donna

13. Brookdale Shadlowlake Assisted Living Center

*Assist Elderly and Alzheimer’s patients*

2835 Shadowbriar Drive

Contact: Ann Wasp

Email: [ann.wasp@brookldale.com](mailto:ann.wasp@brookldale.com)

brookdale.com/communities/hampton-at-shadlowlake

14. The River Performing and Visual Arts Center

*Helping children with speacial needs. Weekend program*

1475 West Gray

Email: [hilary.parcher@tuts.com](mailto:hilary.parcher@tuts.com)

7135201220

15. Nature Discovery Center

Helping children appreciate

Anne Eisner 7136676550

Flexible times through the week until 5pm

Open during the weekend

Different areas: with animals, help children, park, etc.

16. Epilepsy Foundation of Southeast Texas

*Mentoring and counseling young people with epilepsy*

Contact: Suzanne Thomas 7137896295

(still need to add a few)

Summer:

1. Camp blessing

* email :
  + [info@campblessing.org](mailto:info@campblessing.org)
  + [programs@camblessing.org](mailto:programs@camblessing.org)
* 2812595789 (office cell)
* From one week to the whole summer
* Need young men to volunteer

2. Park Plaza Hospital

*Teen Volunteer Program*

1313 Hermann Drive

Contact: Brittany McDonald

7135275262 x 55361

3. Memorial Herman Hospital

6411 Fannin St.

June-July competitive program

Volunteer Services 7137044141

(applications due January 15 for the summer)

4. The Methodist Hospital

6565 Fannin St.

7134414095

[atoval@houstonmethodist.org](mailto:atoval@houstonmethodist.org)