

St. Anthony Catholic School
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Dear Parents and Students in Grades 7 and 8 for School Year 2016 - 2017:

Many schools require students to give of themselves to the community in the form of service hours. This requirement benefits both the students, who experience the rewards of self-giving service, and the community. To that end we are asking all our 7th and 8th graders to perform service hours: 7th graders = 10 hours of service and 8th graders = 15 hours of service. **Completion of these hours will be necessary for a final passing grade in religion and, for 8th graders it is required for graduation.**

Starting the summer of the 7th or 8th grade School Year, service is to be without pay, occur outside of regular school hours, and **involve direct assistance to others**. Students may choose to volunteer their time at a non-profit agency such as a nursing home, their parish, a hospital, the public library or a school. A possible service site is Morning Star Fisheries (352-583-2722), a local fish farm that teaches fish farming techniques to people who work in mission lands. The St. Anthony parish, St. Vincent de Paul Society is grateful for help on Saturday mornings, but you must call ahead at 352-588-2243 to offer your assistance. Other possibilities may be Relay for Life, R. A. G. E., Kumquat Festival, or Coastal Cleanup.

Students may also choose to volunteer time to help a neighbor, e.g. with errands, yard work, housework, or baby-sitting... just remember, without pay. All hours need not be served at the same site, in the same way or in long blocks of time. While helping out within one's immediate family is commendable, such service would not qualify for this requirement. However, a maximum of two hours of service may be done for grandparents, and a maximum of one-hour may be done at a parent's place of work. Please note that service in liturgical roles, e.g. altar server or reader, does not count because such service is a parish/church responsibility.

We ask that service be performed in 15-minute (minimum) blocks and that the student's adult supervisor within the non-profit agency, neighborhood, or family sign off on the time served. Use the table on the back of this letter to record service. We hope this experience will prove enjoyable, satisfying and educational. If you have any questions, please refer them to your child's religion teacher.

Sister Alice Ottapurackal, FSSE, Principal

Posted at www.stanthonyschoolfl.org

