



15th June 2017

Dear Parents and Students,

The Religion Department and Campus Ministry welcome you to a new academic year at Mount de Sales Academy. Below is a brief outline of the Christian Service component of the Religion curriculum for all grade levels. At orientation and during the first weeks of your religion class we will again review this information.

We recognize that the incoming freshmen will be better served by an introduction to the definition of Christian service and its role in their lives before beginning required service hours. *Therefore, the first semester of the freshman year will be a period of introduction and formation, and service hours will be required during the second semester.*

Service Outreach at MDSA

Jesus tells us, "Whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me"
(Matthew 25:40)

The students of Mount de Sales Academy strive to live out this Gospel message through their high school years. In order to form the whole person, it is important to practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy which are an integral part of our Catholic faith. Students serve others within the Mount de Sales community, in the surrounding region, and even beyond our borders. Service projects are offered throughout the school year through the Campus Ministry office. Students serve in local soup kitchens, homeless shelters, nursing homes, etc..

The yearly service requirement has three parts.

Part 1: A quarterly service requirement done in conjunction with a service curriculum including both instruction and reflection in religion class.

Part 2: A required number of "flex" hours, which may be completed any time, including the summer before the school year. These flex hours are counted as a religion grade at the end of the year and vary in amount according to grade level.

Part 3: A required number of school service hours, which directly help to support school activities.

The completion of these hours each year is required for graduation. Students missing hours in any of the above categories will be required to make-up these hours.

GUIDELINES:

- 1) Christian service is first and foremost service to the human family. Service to animals or the environment is good stewardship, but one must first form the habit of service to one's fellow man. *Service to animals or the environment will not count for the MDSA service curriculum.*
- 2) Christian service is an expression of Christian charity, which is informed by the wisdom of God as given to us in revelation. *Consequently, any activity not in accord with Catholic teaching is not Christian service and will not be given credit.*
- 3) Beginning second semester of freshman year, students are required to complete and turn in three hours per quarter. *These three hours are exclusively done within each quarter at an organization from a list provided by the school. Summer hours or hours done in one quarter may not be distributed over other quarters for the quarterly requirement.*

- 4) In order to foster the building of relationships and knowledge during service, *junior year, the students will complete all of their quarterly hours (three per quarter) at the same organization, chosen from the list.*
- 5) Flex hours may be done at any time, including during the summer, and do not have to be at an organization on the list. These hours will be turned in at the end of the year (or end of 3rd quarter for seniors). Included on this flex form is a recording of the school service hours completed toward the requirement of 4 hours of school service per year. Only the activities listed on the form count for school service.
- 6) In order to receive the grade for service hours, the required forms for quarterly, flex, and school hours must be filled out completely, accurately, and according to the requirements on the form itself. A copy of someone else's filled out form is not acceptable. Verification of this information may be sought by religion teachers or the person coordinating service.

FRAMEWORK FOR SERVICE

Grade	Quarter 1 (at place on the list)	Quarter 2 (at place on the list)	Quarter 3 (at place on the list)	Quarter 4 (at place on the list)	Flex Hours	School Hours	Total Hours for the Year
9			3	3	8	2	16
10	3	3	3	3	8	4	24
11	3*	3*	3*	3*	12	4	28
12	4	4	4	n/a	12	4	28

*At the same location throughout the junior year. Flex hours may be at a different organization/time.

During each quarter, there will be some type of reflection on the service work (in-class essay, oral presentation, multi-media presentation). A list of suggested agencies and revised forms for 2017-2018 will be available on the MDSA website:

www.mountdesalesacademy.org/faith/service

Please contact us if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you in the Fall and hope that you have a very blessed summer.

Christ's Peace,

Miss McDonald

Campus Minister

amcdonald@mountdesales.org

410.744.8498 x114