

SERVICE HOURS

Believing that the servant life of Christ should be modeled, the Service Hours program of Calvary Christian School is based on Galatians 5:13b – “Through love serve one another”. The ultimate goal is to cultivate in middle school students an appreciation for all God has given them and an awareness of the less fortunate around them. It is also designed to help students recognize that they can make a difference in the lives of others and instill in them the desire to do so. The Service Hours opportunity is a volunteer opportunity for students so that these important lessons can be taught in a fashion that is fun and meaningful for the students, no stress for the parents, and not disruptive to the school day.

Students will earn hours by working at a number of different opportunities. A list of places will be made available the first day of the new school year. Hours are graduated, based on the grade in order to ease sixth graders into the opportunity to serve. The requirements are as follows:

6 th grade	4 hours for the year; 2 hours due by mid-December & 2 hours due in May
7 th grade	6 hours for the year; 3 hours due by mid-December & 3 hours due in May
8 th grade	8 hours for the year; 4 hours due by mid-December & 4 hours due in May

Students will be asked to share their experiences with their peers in some sort of presentation during Bible class. They can keep a journal of their activities, create a photo display or simply write a speech about their activities. The purpose of this sharing is two-fold:

1. To provide a measure of accountability to make sure students are volunteering
2. To encourage and inspire other students who may be struggling with a service project.

Students are encouraged to select service projects where they actually work and interact with individuals. While clerical tasks, and the like, are helpful and necessary, they don't have quite the same impact as having contact and sharing with people in need.

Hours can be earned during the summer and counted for both semesters, however students would need to complete an oral presentation the first semester and a written report for the second semester. A Service Hours form must be turned in to the Bible teacher in December and in May. Hours earned helping in Vacation Bible School or youth mission trips will count to fulfill the Service Hours requirement. Students are encouraged to volunteer during the summer to alleviate the stress of completing the required hours during the school year.

It is our hope and desire that this opportunity to practice what Jesus taught us to do by “serving one another” will help our middle school students develop a servant-heart and a desire to reach out a helping hand to those who are less fortunate than they are.