

**CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SERVICE
INFORMATION
BROCHURE**



*Our Gospel Values are centred in the teachings of Jesus
who gave us the gift of love.
"Faith, hope and love abide, these three;
and the greatest of these is love".
(1 Cor.13:13)*



PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

This document provides information about the Christian Community Service (CCS) grade level and overall diploma requirements for students and parents/guardians.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

As stated by the Ontario Ministry of Education (1999), **ALL** students must complete **40 hours** of Community Service in order to receive their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). It is the policy of the Niagara Catholic District School Board that students complete a minimum of 10 hours of **Christian Community Service EACH YEAR** in every Religion class to successfully complete the course – even if the 40 hours of community service are completed by the student. These Christian hours are attached to the course and count toward the above Community Service hours needed for graduation. These Christian hours are required to complete the Christian Community Service Final Project at the end of every Religion Course, which is worth 10-15% each year. These Christian hours will be tracked **separately** on its own special form.

GRADE 9: Students must complete a minimum of 10 Christian Community Service hours by the end of the semester of their Gr. 9 Religion Class along with their Christian Community Service Project worth 10% of their final grade.

GRADE 10: Students must complete a minimum of 10 Christian Community Service hours by the end of the semester of their Gr. 10 Religion Class along with their Christian Community Service Project worth 10% of their final grade.

GRADE 11: Students must complete a minimum of 10 Christian Community Service hours by the end of the semester of their Gr. 11 Religion Class along with their Christian Community Service Project worth 10%-15% of their final grade.

GRADE 12: Students must complete a minimum of 10 Christian Community Service hours by the end of the semester of their Gr. 12 Religion Class along with their Christian Community Service Project worth 10% - 15% of their final grade.

To avoid ineligible activities, it is imperative that a student receive a **PRE-APPROVAL SIGNATURE** from his/her **RELIGION** teacher. This will confirm that upcoming Christian community service activity is acceptable. A parent/relative/friend/employer signature are **NOT** allowed for pre-approval.

SUMMER CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Students who wish to complete Christian community service hours in the summer must receive pre-approval from his/her Religion teacher only. Those summer hours will count towards the up-coming year and Religion class project.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SERVICE

Christian Community Service in the Niagara Catholic District School Board enables students to show solidarity with people who are in need and who require assistance. It provides students with an opportunity to follow the teaching of Jesus Christ and puts into practice the social teaching of the Church.

In its authentic and primary sense, Christian service is inspired by Jesus' teaching and example, extended to those who are in need or who suffer in any way, and offered in the spirit of human solidarity that reflects Jesus' statement that "whatever you do the least among you, you do it to me". Being a good neighbour refers to the great teaching of Christ from the Gospel of Luke entitled "The Parable of the Good Samaritan", where we are called to be a good neighbour and help those in need. It is clear from this source that service is directed towards those who need us most. Each student's experience will address curriculum expectations and culminate by completing the assignment where reflection on their service is evaluated.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

STUDENTS

In consultation with their parents/guardians, students are responsible for selecting approved Christian Community Service activities. It is the responsibility of the student to complete all required documentation and submit them within the required timelines. It is advised that students make a duplicate/photocopy of all Christian Community Service forms before handing them in to their Religion teacher to avoid any discrepancies. ***For incoming grade nine students please keep in mind that hours served in the summer, prior to the first semester are eligible to be counted as Christian Community Service.***

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Parents/guardians should provide assistance to their son/daughter in the selection of their Christian Community Service activities. Parents/guardians are also encouraged to communicate with community sponsors and the school guidance counsellors or program chair of Religious Studies if they have any questions or concerns. A parent/guardian must sign the Christian Community Service

www.spchs.ca (Saint Paul Catholic Website)



ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Any service for non-profit organizations, churches, or schools
- An organization requiring a person to volunteer his/her time for a charity
- **The following Christian Community Service opportunities are common at Saint Paul Catholic Secondary School:** Pilgrimage, Stair Climb for Cancer, Niagara Falls Community Outreach (Soup Kitchen), Pro-life initiatives, Santa Claus Parade, Charitable walks/runs (Terry Fox and the Rankin Run), Student secretary for Parent-Teacher Interviews
- Public Library, Goodwill, Girl Guide leader
- Coaching → only if coaches are volunteering
- Scorekeeping (part of co-curricular involvement)
- Charitable activities (church bazaars, pancake/spaghetti suppers)
- YMCA/ YWCA
- Hospitals/Hospices and Nursing homes (facilitating recreational activities only)
- Project Share (905.357.5121)
- Community Care (905.227.9240)
- Habitat for Humanity Niagara (905.685.7395)
- Snow Buddies (905.682.3800)
- Tender Wishes (905.371.0300)
- Humane Society (905 356.4404)
- Boys and Girls Club (905.357.2444)
- Chaplain's Crew (after school) SEE CHAPLAIN
- Parish/church ministries (reading, serving, singing etc.)
- ALL activities MUST be pre-approved by your Religion Teacher
- **Announcements and Christian Community Service bulletin boards provide numerous opportunities.**
- **NOTE: Eligible activities included above are common examples at Saint Paul but students are not limited to these suggestions.**

INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Work for a workplace or business (private or commercial)
- Work normally done by a person who earns a wage
- Requirement for a course in which the student is enrolled. (Example: Co-Op)
- Work (for pay) at Club Halls
- Any activity that takes place during school (lunch and spares are excluded)
- Duties (chores) such as baby-sitting, shovelling snow, raking leaves for family/friends
- Activities completed for pay/reward (i.e. bonus marks)
- Parent or relative signatures for the completion of activities
- Personal recreational activities
- Work for a Political Party and/or candidate
- Work for any form of payment (i.e. money, gifts, bartering)
- Any association with an organization or activity that conflicts with the ethical standards and teachings of the Catholic Church
- Alternative placement hours in lieu of suspension and/or detention as initiated/coordinated by school administration
- **REMINDER → If unsure, please ask a Religion Teacher, Chaplain, Administrator or a member of the Student Services Department**