

Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School

Service Program for Students

Whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.
Matthew 25:40

We are called to share our gifts and talents with those around us. The primary goal of the student service program at Bishop McGuinness is to help students find those places where their gifts meet the needs of the community. Our gifts are many - our time, our listening ear, physical labor, tutoring, singing and so much more. We are called to use our gifts for the common good. It is how we put our faith into action.

Our program is grounded in **Catholic Social Teaching** and the **Corporal Works of Mercy** and is inspired by the school motto – *Praesis ut Prosit: excel so as to serve*.

Program Requirements

Beginning with the Class of 2030 and beyond, the Bishop student service program will provide service opportunities of personal interest that are reflective of our faith and that will inspire students to be a beacon of Christ's love for others. Service expectations will be scaffolded over the four high school years to provide students with a variety of experiences and a broad knowledge of local agencies and organizations engaged in service work that aligns with their own unique charisms and gifts. *Students in the Class of 2027-2029 will continue to complete 30 hours per year according to previous guidelines.*

Defining “service experience”

An *experience* is a supervised, unrewarded, in-person activity that lasts two or more hours and falls into one or more of the categories below. The goal for the experience is for students to provide hands-on service to members of the community. Ideally, students give of their time and talents in face-to-face and personal encounters. However, students may complete the experience “one step removed” by serving an organization or agency that provides direct aid to the suffering members of the community. While the interaction may not be directly with the people receiving aid, students are still giving of their time and talent in service to an organization that does so.

- **Feed the hungry** (food bank, soup kitchen, etc.)
- **Give drink to the thirsty** (clean-water initiatives, etc.)
- **Give alms to the poor or the hopeless** (organizing fundraisers, holiday cards for elderly or children's hospital, etc.)
- **Visit the imprisoned** (prison ministry, supervised letter-writing projects, etc.)
- **Shelter the homeless** (shelters or outreach projects, blessing bags, etc.)
- **Visit the sick** (hospital or nursing home visits, etc.)

- **Bury the dead** (serve at a funeral Mass, bereavement-related support)
- **Care for God's Creation - Environmental and Resource Stewardship** (environmental or outdoor projects, sustainability efforts, animal welfare, etc.)
- **Dignify the Life of the Human Person - Support Vulnerable Individuals** (pregnant women in need, programs for children, general elderly support, programs for those with special needs, etc.)
- **Approved Projects at BMCHS or church parish** (committed volunteerism outside of club or activity requirements, serving at VBS or Faith Formation, etc.)

Annual Requirements

9th Grade

1. Two service experiences (preferably in two different experience categories), both completed during designated school days and organized by the school. A written reflection must be completed for each service experience
2. Additional hours of service to the school, a church community, or in any of the approved categories may be completed and documented towards annual service award categories. Information about current and ongoing service activities will be provided regularly to students, who will document these service hours using MobileServe.

10th, 11th, and 12th Grades

Sophomores will complete one service experience during a designated school day that will be organized by the school. Sophomores through seniors will complete additional hours independently in service to the school, church community, or one of the approved categories and will be required each year.

Service Awards

The following award levels will be recognized for hours completed independently:

Hours	Recognition
30-75 hours	Satisfied
75-120 hours	Satisfied with Merit
120+ hours	Satisfied with Distinction
150+ hours	Satisfied with Exemplification

Students engaging in 150+ service hours each year of enrollment at the school will earn the mark "Satisfied with exemplification." These students will be honored in their senior year with a graduation medal for their service to their church and community.

Charity is the soul of faith; it gives it life. St. Anthony of Padua