

## St. Thomas Aquinas Community Service Program

We are called by Christ to be His hands and feet by showing love, compassion and mercy to those who are poor in spirit, mind and body. In order to revitalize and emphasize the importance of serving those in need, the following is the description of the current STA Community Service Program.

### Requirements by Academic Year

#### 2017-18

9	2021	10 hrs
10	2020	15 hrs
11	2019	Completion of “sophomore” service hours and Reflection paper by 10/30
12	2018	No further requirements but encouragement to serve

#### 2018-19

9	2022	10 hrs
10	2021	15 hrs
11	2020	20 hrs
12	2019	25 hrs or Service/Mission Trip – You may start accumulating hours this year.

Students are to complete hours by May 1st and will receive a Pass/Fail grade on their 4th Quarter report cards. While service opportunities will be provided by St. Thomas Aquinas, students are also encouraged to search for opportunities to serve those in need in their communities. The service in which students are engaged should be based on the Corporal Works of Mercy.

### Corporal Works of Mercy

Feed the hungry

Shelter the homeless

Clothe the Naked

Visit the sick and imprisoned

Bury the dead

Give alms to the poor

Service/Mission trips offered by St. Thomas Aquinas, parishes or other organizations (approved by the Campus Minister) are encouraged and can count toward the senior year requirement. Students may use a mission trip toward their senior requirement at any point during their time at St. Thomas Aquinas as long as it is not used toward service hours for a previous year. For example, if a sophomore completes his/her 15 hours of service and in addition takes part in a service trip, the trip can be counted toward the senior year requirement.

Education as to “why we serve” will be presented in the Theology classes by the teachers as well as presentations by the Campus Minister in said classes.

The following may NEVER be considered service and if submitted will be considered invalid:

- Volunteering at For-Profit businesses (i.e. doctor’s offices, law firms, stores, etc. ).
- Any house, yard work or babysitting done for family, friends or neighbors.
- Anything in which payment is received (or performing work for which you would normally receive payment but not accepting pay).
- Service should not be done through organizations that are contrary to the mission and beliefs of St Thomas Aquinas High School and the Roman Catholic Church. If you are unsure, please check with the Campus Minister.
- New service opportunities will be posted on the message boards at school and on PlusPortals.