

40 HOURS



of Community Involvement

IN OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

*“Put your gifts at the service of
one another, each in the
measure you have received.”*

1 PETER 4:10



Peterborough Victoria
Northumberland and Clarington
Catholic District School Board

Our Catholic Tradition

Imparting the Spirit Through Education

The Catholic School is an extension of the Roman Catholic Church and as the Church we are a community. In part this means that we care for human needs - spiritual, psychological, and physical - helping to build God's reign of peace and justice at every level of human existence, personal and social, with a special favour for the poor and the disadvantaged.

One of the Provincial Expectations of the Ontario Catholic School Graduate is that he/she be **“a discerning believer formed in the Catholic Faith Community who develops attitudes and values founded on Catholic social teaching and who acts to promote social responsibility, human solidarity and the common good”**. (Institute of Catholic Education)

Christian Service has always been at the core of the culture of Catholic schools. Traditionally, Catholic Schools have reached out to the community through school and class projects and in many instances as a component of Religious Education courses.

The Provincial Graduation requirement of **“40 hours of community involvement”** complements what has always been our tradition and is viewed as a minimum expectation of a student in a Catholic School.



“In everything, do-to-others as you would have them do-to-you.”

MATTHEW 7:12

Roles & Responsibilities of Students

The community service requirement encourages students to:

- understand that as Catholics we are called to the service of others
- develop an attitude of responsibility for the common good
- develop an understanding of the various roles they can play in their community
- develop an appreciation for the value of community service
- develop strong ties between students and their community
- foster valuable and long-term community relationships

The basic facts:

- This graduation requirement is mandated by the Ministry of Education.
- Forty (40) hours of Community Involvement is a requirement for all students beginning with those registered in Grade 9 for September 1999.
- Hours can be completed in small amounts each year or all 40 hours at once.
- Students will not be paid for performing any community involvement activity.
- Activities must take place outside of scheduled instructional class time. Students may complete an activity during a spare, lunch or during non-instructional time at school.
- Activities which are normally requirements towards earning a credit are disallowed.
- Community involvement during the summer is eligible (but not prior to entering grade nine).
- The Community Involvement hours will be recorded on the students' Ontario Student Transcript when completed.
- A parent is not required to sign a form if the student is 18 years of age or older although it is desirable.

Roles & Responsibilities of Parent(s) / Guardian(s)

Parents should provide assistance to their child when selecting one or more community involvement activities. Selection of activities should take into account the age, maturity, and ability of the student, the location and environment of the proposed activity, and the need for any special training, equipment, and preparation. The safety of the student is paramount. Parents are also encouraged to communicate with the community sponsor and the school principal if they have any questions or concerns. There will be examples of Board approved activities and ineligible activities, based on the guidelines from the Ministry of Education, and are available at the school.

A “Notification of Planned Community Involvement Activities” form must be submitted to the school prior to the activity for approval. A student's Teacher Adviser or Principal must sign this form before the activity. This form will be stored in the student's Annual Education Plan (A.E.P.).

The student must submit the “Completion of Community Involvement Activities” form to the principal or school contact person upon completion of the 40 hours or at appropriate intervals as determined by the school. This information will be stored in the student's Ontario Student Record (O.S.R.).

Record keeping is ultimately the responsibility of the student.



“Let each of you look not-to-your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.”

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4

Examples of Christian Community Involvement

Students can seek opportunities to help:

ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

- assisting charities, service clubs, and other not-for-profit organizations
- participating in Liturgical Ministry (lector, server, choir)
- assisting with Children's Liturgy
- volunteering service with Parish/Church organizations (e.g., Share Lent, Youth Group)
- assisting with Brownies, Guides, Cubs and Scouts
- coaching sports teams
- helping organize community events (e.g., winter carnival, Canada Day)
- participating in environmental projects (e.g., clean-up, recycling programs)
- assisting in a seniors' residence
- participating on committees (e.g., advisory boards, school committees)
- participating in community services (e.g., United Way, local Food Banks, Meals on Wheels, 4-H Club, Big Sister, Big Brother)

ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

- participating on the student council
- organizing school activities (e.g., Grade 9 welcome, school arts show, sports meets)
- assisting in school activities (e.g., guide for Parents' Night, technical crews for productions, student ambassador for feeder school)
- participating in environmental projects
- participating in school/community activities (e.g., Terry Fox Run)
- tutoring students, reading buddies
- peer mediator
- participating on yearbook committee, dance organizer

Roles & Responsibilities of Sponsors in the Community

Persons and organizations within the community may be asked by the student to sponsor a community involvement activity. Any training, equipment, or special preparation that is required for the activity should be provided by the person or organization. It is crucial that students are able to fulfil their community involvement requirement in a safe environment. The person overseeing the student's activity must verify the date(s) and the number of hours completed on the "Completion of Community Involvement Activities" form.

Because the program is mandated by the Ministry of Education, the Board's liability insurance will protect the students and the community sponsors. However, the Board's insurance does not cover law suits that occur from injury in the workplace arising from sponsor negligence. Though not required, it is recommended that students involved in the program purchase Student Accident Insurance. The Board expects the community sponsors to ensure that student volunteers are provided with safety instructions, and are trained and supervised to ensure a safe and mutually beneficial volunteer experience.

The primary concern in developing the ineligible activities list is student safety. The student must be in a safe environment. The list was developed in conjunction with OSBIE, the school Boards insurance carrier and prohibits the Board from allowing certain community involvement activities. Some ineligible activities include: handling of securities; household chores; operation of motor vehicles; power tools; and court ordered programs.

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PRODUCED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT



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