

Name: _____

Date: _____

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SERVICE-LEARNING AT CARLISLE HIGH SCHOOL
2023-2024

Dear Students & Parents:

This letter is to inform you there is a **mandatory** “**service learning**” component to the junior-level course, **Civics**. Completion of this project is **REQUIRED** in order to receive academic credit for Civics. *Failure to successfully meet this requirement will result in an assigned X-grade for this course and course failure, even if you have passed the course for the year.*

Why has this activity been added to the Civics course?

As the name of the course implies, a primary goal of the course is to prepare Carlisle students for the rights and responsibilities they will face as young adults once they graduate from high school. In addition to the usual elements of a civics course, such as learning about the political and electoral process, we believe that it is important for students to understand the role that community service plays in effective citizenship. **The Board of Directors for CASD has approved this activity as a component of the Civics course.**

What does this activity involve?

While enrolled in Civics, students will need to complete 10 hours of volunteer service at an **approved** service organization. **This volunteer service cannot be in conjunction with other volunteer service through a Carlisle High School club or organization – it must be separate and outside of school hours! (i.e., Students participating in “Field Days” at elementary schools during school hours do not count).** In addition to helping out at a local charitable or non-profit organization, students will be required to complete a written assignment that asks them to reflect upon their experiences. The service hours and the written work must be completed by **Friday, April 18, 2024**. It will count for 15% of the fourth term grade (roughly equal to a unit test – see attached grading rubric).

Is it not a contradiction of terms to require “volunteer” service?

The goal of the program is not to recruit a pool of volunteers that will solve the problems of Cumberland County. Rather, the intent of the program is to teach about community service. The importance of volunteering time within your community cannot be taught in books. It demands a hands-on experience that will immerse the student in the activity itself. We hope to give students some insight into a side of community life they may not be familiar with, and to share with them a few non-governmental ways of dealing with the problems and issues faced by our society. In the long run, just as we hope that students will become active participants in the electoral process by writing their congressperson or voting, we hope that the service-learning experience will help students better understand their role as active members of their community and to encourage their adult participation in service-related activities.

What will the student need to do to complete this activity?

An approximate timeline and activity overview is on the back of this sheet.

What types of organizations may the student work with?

A list of APPROVED organizations that Carlisle High School has a relationship with is available with the student’s teacher. If the student knows of another organization not on the school’s list, he or she may work with this organization provided **prior approval from the teacher is granted**. Organizations and activities that will not be approved include but are not limited to sports team fundraisers, for-profit businesses, non-compensated jobs, and any other organization that **IS NOT** a charitable or community-based organization.

PLEASE NOTE: “Double-dipping” is not allowed in conjunction with this project. Meaning if you are getting credit for volunteering through another organization at school or within the community (i.e., National Honor Society, Key Club, Interact, etc.), you **MAY NOT** use the same hours for the Service-Learning Project!

APPROXIMATE TIMELINE FOR SERVICE-LEARNING ACTIVITY

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|-------------|--|
| September | Teacher hands out: *Service-Learning Contract and proposal *Types of approved organizations *Student Response Form * Students search for and choose a willing service organization The contract and proposal MUST be returned by <u>Friday, October 6th</u> |
| Oct. – Apr. | Students complete community service hours and essay <u>Students must complete this on their own AFTER school hours!</u> |
| April 18 | Students return completed contract and essay with signature of work supervisor. |

It is our hope that this activity will be beneficial to both the students and the community, and we appreciate your support of our efforts. If you have questions, please feel free to contact the specific instructor or myself at 240-6800, ext. 26132.

Sincerely,

Kevin Wagner
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Carlisle Area School District
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