May 2016

Dear Families,

As an Episcopal school, Saint Mary’s School seeks to give students concrete chances to respect the dignity and worth of all. One of the ways we as a community demonstrate this commitment is through a yearly community service requirement. Each student completes twenty hours of service for each year she is enrolled at Saint Mary’s School.

Students are allowed to complete their service requirement by pursuing independent service activities over the summer or during the school year. Students who wish to start or complete their hours during the summer should contact me at abstewart@sms.edu before Friday, June 10, 2016 to ensure what she has in mind fits within school guidelines. Our community appreciates the flexibility this option offers, and it allows a student to pursue any burgeoning passions or interests she may have. Community service not preapproved may still be submitted for credit as long as it meets the guidelines. The preapproval simply ensures that is the case.

The form your daughter should use to record her independent community service activities is on the next page. This form can either be mailed or brought to school in August at registration. Please note the three reporting deadlines, listed on the form itself.

During the school year, I refer you to both The Buzz and the handbook for more information about community service at Saint Mary’s.

- The Buzz, Saint Mary’s weekly e-newsletter, has timely information regarding weekly service opportunities that we sponsor or publicize. The school organizes and offers chaperoned opportunities throughout the school year, normally on the weekends, so as not to conflict with athletics, dance, Chorale, and any other afterschool commitments.
- The Student-Parent Handbook, which you will receive over the summer, has important guidelines and consequences related to community service.

Your daughter will have access to all of this information throughout the school year, through the weekly student e-newsletter, emails, and assemblies.

I am grateful for our students’ service and look forward to the 2016-2017 school year. To our new families, welcome, and to our returning families, welcome back!

Sincerely,

The Reverend Ann Bonner-Stewart
Chaplain
Director of Community Service
Instructor of Humanities and Social Sciences