

# SAINT MARY'S SCHOOL

May 2018

Dear Families,

As an Episcopal school, Saint Mary's School seeks to give students concrete ways to respect the dignity and worth of all. One of the ways we demonstrate this commitment is through community service. Throughout her time at Saint Mary's, students participate in service-learning through seminar and the Martin Luther King Day of Service and Learning. We are also reimagining a service-learning long weekend for our sophomore class—stay tuned for more information at the beginning of next school year!

In addition to the above initiatives, **each 9<sup>th</sup> grade student is required to complete 20 community service hours between now and the end of April 2019.** Students may complete their service requirement by pursuing independent service activities over the summer or during the school year. Our community appreciates the flexibility this option offers, and it allows a student to pursue any interests she may already have. Community service not preapproved may still be submitted for credit if it meets the guidelines. The preapproval simply ensures that is the case. **Students who wish to start or complete their hours during the summer should contact me at [abstewart@sms.edu](mailto:abstewart@sms.edu) before Monday, June 11, 2018 to ensure what she has in mind fits within school guidelines.**

The form ninth graders use to record 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.

Saint Mary's is also a certifying organization for the [Presidential Volunteer Service Award](#). This nationally recognized program recognizes those who volunteer significantly. Students of any grade level who serve and submit [the designated amount of service hours](#) from May 1-April 30 will receive the award. Participation is open to all American citizens. Saint Mary's offers an equivalent, in house award for any non-citizens who otherwise meet all program requirements.

During the school year, I refer you to both *The Buzz* and the handbook for 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 2018-2019 school year. To our new families, welcome, and to our returning families, welcome back!

Sincerely,



The Reverend Ann Bonner-Stewart  
Chaplain

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## Class of 2022 Community Service Report Form

Community service should be completed and forms should be turned in by:

- **Friday, September 10, 2018** – 5:00 p.m. for service completed during summer 2018
- **Friday, December 14, 2018** – 5:00 p.m. for service completed during fall of 2018
- **Friday, April 28, 2019** – 5:00 p.m. for service completed during spring of 2019

If alternative arrangements need to be made in advance or if there is a reasonable conflict, contact the director of community service. See the *Student-Parent Handbook* for information about late forms and activities not appropriate for the school service requirement. **Students must fully complete forms** in order to receive credit.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Saint Mary's School Advisor Name (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Community Service Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Service Date(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Hours earned: \_\_\_\_\_

What did you do? \_\_\_\_\_

**What have you learned/what have you gained from this experience? How did your time benefit others?** (You may write your answer below, on the back of this page, or attach additional pages.)

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*With a clear understanding of what the Honor Code implies, I pledge that I will uphold the highest standard of personal integrity in every phase of life at Saint Mary's, and I recognize and accept my responsibility for helping others to live up to that standard.*

Student's signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return form to:**  
Director of Community Service  
900 Hillsborough Street  
Raleigh, NC 27603  
[abstewart@sms.edu](mailto:abstewart@sms.edu)