Learning and Serving Program

At the deepest level of who we are as The Master’s School, we believe that above everything we are an academic institution built upon the Biblical foundations of truth, integrity, and excellence. Since its founding in 1970, The Master’s School’s guiding principle has been the integration of faith and learning. Excellence in academics with an emphasis on strong moral character, leadership, and community are themes that our staff, faculty, and students embrace. The Biblical call to be doers of the Word and not only hearers has been the inspiration for our Learning & Serving program.

This program, now in its third decade, seeks to challenge our students to look beyond their wants and to reach out to those truly in need. Through the Learning & Serving program, our students have worked in daycare centers for infants and for the elderly; tutored elementary students in the urban community; built houses with Habitat for Humanity; served in soup kitchens, hospitals, and food pantries; and organized food, clothing, and recycling drives. The school community has helped reestablish a school in Kosovo, obtained shoes for needy Iraqi children, and sponsored student mission trips in and out of the United States.

Many of our alumni who now work as teachers, counselors, social workers, political activists, and missionaries credit this program with exposing them to what has become their chosen vocation.

Learning and Serving is a complement to our Middle and Upper School Bible curriculum as it allows students to put feet to their faith. We believe service is a vital part of what it means to follow Christ and to live as a reflection of Him in this world.

The program has both a service hour requirement as well as an end of the year assessment that students turn in to their Bible teacher. Students may serve in their local communities, their nation, and the world in which they live. We encourage them to find appropriate opportunities at school, within their churches and through outside organizations, both para-church and secular, that meet both the physical and spiritual needs of a lost and dying world.

Why serve?

EPHESIANS 2:8-10

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

There is no substitute for God’s grace that brings salvation. This salvation has not been given to us merely for the purpose of attaining eternal life ourselves, but rather we are called to be God’s vessels of love to the world around us, demonstrated by good works.
It is with this in mind that TMS has complemented our Bible curriculum with a service expectation so that you, our students, can put feet to your faith.

We ask that you serve in the local community, the nation and the world in which you live.

We believe that the outcome of this service will include many benefits for you, including the following:

- Development of Christian maturity
- Learning about yourself, your likes and dislikes, strengths and weaknesses, as well as new gifts and talents
- Development of leadership skills and opportunities to practice servant leadership
- Preparation for college and future career

Even greater still is the outcome that God will be honored and His kingdom realities will be made apparent in this world by your service.

Additional Scriptural Basis for Service

MATTHEW 20:26-28

“. . . whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

JOHN 13:34-35

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

COLOSSIANS 3:23

“Whatsoever you do, work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord, not for men.”

Deadlines for Service

The following elements are due to your current Advisor for a Pass/Fail grade that appears on your transcript.

- By January 11, 2019 – Service Log
- By May 10, 2019 – Service Log and Final Service Assessment

To Fulfill Your Service Requirement . . .

Complete all required hours per semester and turn in final service assessment.
Upper School students: Grades 9/10 must serve a minimum of 16 hours per year. Grades 11/12 must serve a minimum of 20 hours per year. Half of those hours due each semester.

Ex. 10th Grade: 16 hours per year. First semester = 8 hours. Second semester = 8 hours.

Service Hours Must Be:

- Completed outside of your own home
- Unpaid work
- No more than 5 hours per week in a single service event
- Recorded correctly by “type” and “area” of service on the Service Log.
- Documented with photos.

*For first semester: service hours may be earned starting during summer vacation.
*For second semester: service hours may be earned starting over Christmas vacation.

Ex. Visiting a nursing home for a total of 6 hours over a week will count for 5 hours of service.

IMPORTANT NOTE: All hours can be earned doing the same “type” of service.
Types and Areas of Service

For each service you perform, record the “type of service” and the “area” in which you served on your Service Log using the categories listed below.

Type of Service – What you did
- Needs – Church nursery, nursing homes, soup kitchen, babysitting without pay, applesauce making event for the homeless
- Physical labor – Construction, cleaning, home repair, lawn work, shoveling snow, window washing at school
- Teaching/Discipleship – Lower School mentoring, Vacation Bible School, serving as a camp counselor
- Evangelism – The Hartford Project, Peru Mission Trip, door-to-door evangelism

Area of Service – Where you did it
- Church – Work for your church
- School – Work for TMS in any capacity
- Community – Work locally, non-school/non-church opportunities
- Nation – Work with any organization that is not in CT (out of state, but within the US)
- World – Work in another country

*You may record all the hours you served though only 5 of those hours count per week.

**Some service opportunities involve multiple “Types of Service” which you can record.

Final Service Assessment

Your Service Log with your service hours and proper signatures is due to your Advisor as outlined under “Deadlines for Service”.

Choose ONE of the following options:
1. Photo essay
2. PowerPoint presentation
3. A one page paper

Be creative, colorful and informative!

PHOTO ESSAY

The following elements are required:
- Poster board
- First and last name somewhere on the poster
- At least four photos
- Captions for each event represented on your poster (not necessarily each picture)
- A paragraph mounted on your poster containing the following information:
  - A description of who/where you served during the year.
  - At least one thing you learned from your service experience
At least one thing that you enjoyed about your service experience.

***Be sure to have permission from the people in the picture or from the organization to take pictures. Sometimes there are restrictions.***

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

The following elements are required:

- First and last name somewhere in your presentation.
- Minimum of eight slides portraying your service activities and describing who/where you served for the year.
- Minimum of four pictures.

***Submit by e-mail or flash drive to your Advisor***

ONE PAGE PAPER

Essay format which chronicles your service and the impact that service had on you and those you served.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

In order to pass, each part of the assessment must be completed. Incomplete assessments will NOT BE accepted.

Suggested Opportunities for Service

SERVING THE HUNGRY AND HOMELESS

Hartford Rescue Mission; Website: www.hartfordrescuemission.org
Christian Fellowship Center in Bristol, CT; Website: www.cfcstorehouse.org
Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child; Website: www.samaritan.org
Salvation Army Marshall House; (860) 543-8430

SERVING INNER CITY STUDENTS

Read to Grow- used children’s books collection; Website: www.readtogrow.org

SERVING IN YOUR CHURCH

Volunteering for Vacation Bible School, teaching Sunday school, helping in a church outreach program, etc.

SERVING IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Friends of Main Street in Winsted, CT; Website: www.friendsofmainstreet.com; (860) 738-3351
Flamig Farm in West Simsbury, CT; Website: www.flamigfarm.com; (860) 658-5070
SERVING STUDENTS AND WOMEN IN FAMILY PLANNING
Crisis Pregnancy Center in Unionville, CT; Website: www.thecrisispregnancycenterct.org

SERVING THE ELDERLY
McLean Nursing Home in Simsbury, CT; Website: www.mcleancare.org; (860) 658-3725
Simsbury Senior Center; Website: www.simsburyseniors.com; (860) 658-3273

“I am only one but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. What I can do, I should do, and with the help of God, I will do.”

—Everett Hale
# Service Log

Name: ________________________  
Grade: ________

Grades 9 & 10: 16 hours for the year.  
Grades 11 & 12: 20 hours for the year.  
Half of the hours are due each semester.

**First Semester: Due by January 11, 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of Service Opportunity</th>
<th>Supervisor Signature (Parent, Teacher, Coordinator, etc.)</th>
<th>Date Participated</th>
<th>Type of Service</th>
<th>Area of Service</th>
<th>Total Hours</th>
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Grades 11 & 12: 20 hours for the year.
Half of the hours are due each semester.

**Second Semester: Due by May 10, 2019**

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<th>Description of Service Opportunity</th>
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<th>Date Participated</th>
<th>Type of Service</th>
<th>Area of Service</th>
<th>Total Hours</th>
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