

September 18, 2007

Dear Blanchet Parent:

Recently we have made some changes to deepen the student experience of our service program at Blanchet Catholic School. This letter outlines the new developments that have occurred at the various grade levels. Each religion teacher has explained these changes to your son/daughter in class.

To graduate with a Blanchet Catholic School diploma, *high school* students have always been required to complete 20 hours of service per year and the number of hours **have not** changed. However, each grade level has been assigned a particular “theme” and at least **half** (10) of the service hours must be in the area of this particular topic. Additionally, there will be a cross curricular emphasis throughout the specific classes. *Middle school* students now have a service requirement of **10** hours per year, 5 hours per semester. The “themes” are as follows:

Middle School: The Environment  
Freshman: At Risk Children  
Sophomores: The Elderly  
Juniors: Poverty  
Seniors: Development of their own unique Service Project

**Requirements for Senior Service Project:**

- Submit a proposal by Thanksgiving that outlines the project in detail and has the approval of an adult advisor who will oversee the project. Faculty or adults in the community can serve as the advisor.
- Students will present their project to a panel of listeners (maximum of 10 minutes) in the spring.
- Students will submit a one page overview of their service project and a log of their hours signed by their advisor.

Service will continue to be integrated into the academic classroom as a percentage of the religion grade. Religion teachers have outlined this in the classroom and the class syllabus. It is our hope that this progression in our service program will provide students with a comprehensive perspective of various communities in need of assistance. Please see the list of “FAQ” on the back of this letter. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to call either Principal Bob Weber or Campus Minister Danielle Wise at 503-391-2639.

As a school, we are looking forward to this growth in our service program, and we thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,



Robert G. Weber  
Principal

Danielle M. Wise  
Campus Minister

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **What if I have already completed all of my hours over the summer?**

If you have completed all of your service hours starting from June 2007, you must turn all of those hours in on a Blanchet Catholic School service form by September 28, 2007. In addition, you have the option of either writing a three page paper on the particular “theme” for your class **or** performing an additional three hours of service in the specific “theme.” If you are a senior, you still need to develop your own unique service project, but you may use some of your summer hours in addition to your project hours. Specific cases can be discussed with Ms. Pavelek.

### **When will my service hours be due?**

High school: 10 hours first semester and 10 hours second semester.  
Middle school: 5 hours first semester and 5 hours second semester.

### **How is service factored in to my religion grade?**

This will be discussed in your religion classes with your religion teachers.

### **Where can I find a Blanchet Catholic School service form?**

These are located on the website under the Parent and Student/Important Forms section.

### **What types of service count toward my hours?**

Just about anything where you are helping out someone else without receiving any form of compensation will be counted as service hours. We encourage you to help outside of your home for service hours. You should help out around the house, watch your siblings, take out the trash, etc...just because you are a good kid☺. If you are helping an organization that your parents are in charge of, that is different and acceptable for service hours.

### **Who should I turn my service hour form in to?**

Your religion teacher.

### **Where can I find organizations that need to be served?**

Your religion teacher will announce these in the classroom. Mrs. Wise sends out upcoming service opportunities to each religion teacher.