

BCHS Service Hour Program 2021-22

Why We Serve

Development of our students into “persons for others” is an integral part of the mission of Bishop Canevin High School. The service hour program seeks to help students live out Jesus’ call to love our neighbor and take seriously the Church’s social teaching as they identify, understand, and address various needs of their communities.

Details about the Service Hour Program

Every BC student has an obligation to complete **25 service hours by May 1st of each school year**. A minimum of **10 of these hours must include Magis Moments**, defined as *hands-on service to individuals most in need*. These Magis Moments are invaluable experiences meant to help our students experience a greater sense of solidarity with those on the margins. For example, students can volunteer at homeless shelters, soup kitchens, and organizations that serve those who live with disabilities to fulfill their Magis hours. However, volunteering at events like fish fries, parish festivals, and BC Open House *would not qualify* towards these hours (but could absolutely fulfill the remaining 15-hour requirement). While we encourage students to serve their family members (parents, grandparents, etc.), this type of work will *not count towards their 25 hours*, as we want students to encounter and learn from those beyond their immediate circles.

All service hours are to be completed outside of a normal instructional day – after school, on weekends, during school holidays, or during summer vacation. Students are encouraged to complete their service hours by volunteering with their athletic team, an extra-curricular activity group, their Houses, their families, or their friends. Service hours for the following school year may be started *after May 1st* for students who have already fulfilled the current year’s service.

Service opportunities are posted on the school’s website, and churches, community centers, local non-profits, and VolunteerMatch.org are excellent resources. There are also ample opportunities for virtual service opportunities, such as online tutoring, that can be found through simple internet searches. Please remember it is the **student’s responsibility** to seek out service opportunities and pursue them.

Christian Service Involves Charity and Justice

As we work towards bringing about a more just and loving world, the Church is clear that both charitable works (i.e. providing food, clothing, shelter) and the work of justice (i.e. addressing root causes of problems, advocating for more just policies and social structures) complement one another.¹ As a result, opportunities in which students learn about various social inequities and how to engage in advocacy, provided this work aligns with Catholic Social Teaching, may also qualify towards fulfillment of service hours. Examples could include participating in the Arrupe Summit through the Ignatian Solidarity Network (see Mrs. Collins for more info on this) or contacting elected officials via letter-writing projects at a local parish. *Please approve this type of experience through the campus ministry office prior to completing it in order to ensure it fits within our BC mission.*

Submitting Service Hours- New Protocol!

Upon completing their hours, students should take with them to their service site(s) a paper copy of the “Community Service Supervisor Verification Form” (in this packet, in the main office, and available on the school website). They will then upload a picture of this completed form into an online Google Form, titled “Service Hour Form,” which will ask for additional information about their work. Both forms are available on the school’s website home page and under “campus ministry.” **Thus, no paper forms will be turned into the school, which is a change from years prior.**

Protocol for Last Year’s (2020-21) Service Hours

Due to the challenge of completing service hours during the 2020-21 school year, *any student who fulfilled the entirety of last year’s 15-hour requirement will receive a credit of 5 non-Magis hours towards this year’s 25-hour requirement*. In other words, these students will only need to complete 20 hours (of which at least 10 are Magis) in the 2021-22 school year. *Students who were unable to complete last year’s hours will not be responsible for making them up.*

Please email Mrs. Collins (collinsa@bishopcanevin.org), Director of Campus Ministry, with any questions or concerns!

¹ “Two Feet of Love in Action.” United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2021, <https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/two-feet-of-love-in-action>.