



St. Helen Catholic School
Family Service Plan
Handbook

Dear Parents:

Volunteers are one of St. Helen's greatest assets; their value goes beyond the direct support they provide. Taking an interest in your school as a volunteer is beneficial for many reasons. Our volunteers find that not only do they help make our school a better place for their children; they form lasting relationships in the process of becoming part of the St. Helen family.

Families are encouraged to complete 20 hours of service to the Parish Community. Up to 5 hours can be Church related, the remainder should be devoted to St. Helen School. St. Helen Catholic School is proud of its tradition of community built around families working together for a common goal. To achieve our goals, we require each family to participate in our Family Service Plan (FSP).

Detailed instructions are included in this packet. For tracking purposes, the school year begins June 1st and concludes May 15th.

Tuition and fees do not cover the full cost of educating students at St. Helen Catholic School. The difference is made up by various fundraising and volunteer activities. Families are welcome to volunteer for a variety of St. Helen Catholic School activities. Any volunteer working in direct contact with students must fulfill the Diocesan Finger Printing and Protecting God's Children requirements.

Thank you in advance for your dedication to making St. Helen Catholic School a leader in education.

Lisa Bell, Principal

Mission Statement

The mission of St. Helen Catholic School is to provide a quality Catholic education that incorporates faith, academics, service, and leadership. Students are encouraged to be confident and productive learners who are “making good things happen”.

Vision Statement

St. Helen Catholic School, building on our core strengths – faith, development, reading, writing, and mathematics will forge a new and powerful model of education. This model emphasizes creativity, critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and technology. Special attention will be given to the sciences and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education. A St. Helen Catholic School student will be inspired to reach his or her highest potential.

Philosophy

St. Helen Catholic School is dedicated to the education of the whole child as a Catholic and global citizen. With the support of home, church, and community, St. Helen Catholic School is committed to providing an exemplary education that is academically challenging and empowers students to reach their full potential spiritually, intellectually, physically, and socially.

Serve one another humbly in love

~ Galatians 5:13

St. Helen Catholic School Policy Regarding Family Service Plan

Volunteers are one of St. Helen's greatest assets. It is through a dedicated group of volunteers that our school activities and fundraising programs will experience sustained growth. Our school policy states that each family is required to give twenty (20) hours of service to the school annually. In lieu of service-hours, you may contribute \$20 per hour or \$400.00 per school year. Although this is the minimum requirement, many families give far beyond this amount. This active involvement in a child's educational environment benefits not only the school but the child's educational growth, as research has demonstrated the direct correlation between parental involvement and student achievement.

Each family is responsible for completing service hours and recording those hours in RenWeb. Detailed instructions are provided in this handbook.

How to Log Volunteer Hours - RenWeb

All volunteer hours should be logged and recorded within your own individual RenWeb/FACTS account. To submit hours:

1. Go to www.StHelenSchoolVero.org and click on RenWeb|FACTS OR www.RenWeb.com
2. Log in to your ParentsWeb account
3. District Code: **shc-fl**
4. Click on the "Family Information" tab from the left menu options
5. To the right of that box is a list of family members. Click on the person performing the service hours.
6. Locate the "Service Hours" tab to the right of "Contact Information" Click this tab
7. Record your volunteer hours by clicking "Add Service Hours". Enter the date of service hours, description of work, number of hours, notes and a SHCS staff member or chairperson who can verify your work. Press SAVE.
8. Other ways to volunteer are by donating Food and Beverage for various events: 1 service hour should equal approximately \$20.
9. Parents will be billed in May if they have not completed service hours.

If you have questions regarding registering service hours, please contact Mrs. Jennifer Howard at J.Howard@sthelenschoolvero.org or 772-567-5457.

Application Policy

Activities that DO NOT qualify as Service Hours

- Remote learning due to pandemic.
- Tax deductible financial donations to the school or church.
- Eating lunch with your child.
- Field trips only count as volunteer hours if you are chaperoning. To chaperone, a volunteer MUST be fingerprinted and have participated in the Protecting God's Children program, have required insurance and have a signed copy of the Student Parent Handbook on file. Just attending a field trip does not qualify as volunteer hours.
- Although we encourage you to attend Mass with your child, attending Mass with your child does not qualify as volunteer hours.
- Gifts to teachers such as wish list items or birthday gifts.

It is the policy of the Diocese of Palm Beach and St. Helen Catholic School to complete a background and fingerprint check on any parent who wishes to be a volunteer at the school or a chaperone/driver on school field trips. The volunteer must also attend a Protecting God's Children workshop before they assume responsibility for a child or volunteer regularly at the school. To request a volunteer packet, please contact Mrs. Karen Santangelo at 772-567-5457 or email: K.Santangelo@Sthelschoolvero.org

Before a parent may volunteer or chaperone, they must:

- Attend a Protecting God's Children workshop. Protecting God's Children is a workshop on child sexual abuse. The schedule of workshops is on the school website under the VIRTUS link.
- Pass a fingerprint background check.
- Read and sign the Diocese of Palm Beach Code of Pastoral Conduct.
- Read and sign the Family Service Plan Handbook Agreement.
- Proper insurance requirements (chaperone)

Parents will not be approved to volunteer or chaperone until the school has received the following:

- Results of a fingerprint background check. The fingerprint background check is valid for five years. The timing of fingerprint results varies.
- Verification of attendance at a Protecting God's Children workshop.
- A signed copy of the Code of Pastoral Conduct.
- A signed copy of the Family Service Plan Handbook Agreement.
- Proper insurance requirements (chaperone)

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Service hours may be completed by volunteering to work at fundraisers, school activities, educational programs, and special church events. You may choose to give your time and talent to one specific program or volunteer to work a combination of activities to complete your required 20 hours. We highly encourage you to give additional volunteer time to St. Helen Catholic School.

School Hours

School Office hours are 7:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Gates are locked during the day and before and after school.

Sign in Procedure

All School volunteers (parents, volunteers, chaperones, etc.) must sign in at the front office each time they are on campus. All visitors are required to wear a visitor badge which is obtained at the front office upon signing in.

Dependability

St. Helen Catholic School relies on your support. We ask that you follow through on tasks by adhering to the scheduled times you committed to and giving notice if there is a change in your availability.

Confidentiality

During your service hours at our school, you may learn confidential information about students or teachers. You are expected to keep this information confidential in any setting inside or outside the school, just as you would wish your privacy rights to be respected. At the same time, volunteers must understand that there are times when student confidences cannot be kept. Example: Any information which may save someone from harm, must be shared. Refer any concerns to Administration.

Health and Safety

Any concern related to a student's health should be relayed to the supervising teacher or staff member. In case of an emergency call 911 then **notify the school office immediately**. Keep in mind that all incidents do not require 911, so please use discretion. Please be aware that staff members and office personnel have been trained in First Aid, CPR, EpiPen, and AED.

Students sent to the office for any reason in grades K-3 are sent with another responsible student or teacher assistant. This is for safety reasons. Students in grades 4-8 who appear ill should be accompanied by a responsible student.

Staff members and volunteers are prohibited from dispensing any medication (including aspirin) except under the direction of a physician and accompanied by a Medical Release Form from the

parent. All medication is to be sent to the school office in the prescribed container. Designated office personnel dispense the medication following parental instruction.

Volunteer Dress

St. Helen Catholic School has very detailed expectations for student dress. Although volunteers do not have a dress requirement, it is expected that volunteers reflect the image of St. Helen Catholic School and wear modest clothing while working in the school or during school activities.

Discipline Code

The School Code of Conduct appears in the Parent / Student Handbook and is to be supported by all volunteers.

Sign Up

We also utilize the Sign-Up Genius system which allows parents to “register” for volunteer opportunities they are interested in. Parents are responsible for remembering what events they sign up for during the year and how many service hours it qualifies for, and logging the appropriate hours in RenWeb.

There is a Volunteer Interest Form on the school website which can be submitted to the school office to express activities you are interested in.

Field Trips

- All school rules are in force unless the principal has explicitly stated otherwise.
- Chaperones are to stay with their assigned group.
- Supervision is both mental and physical. Be sure that attention is always on the students.
- If your child is on the field trip, he or she must not be treated any differently than any other child.
- We hope you enjoy the outing, but we are grateful for remembering that your first responsibility is the safety of the students.
- Volunteer hours will only be given to chaperones, not for those simply attending the event.

Emergency Procedures

A fire drill plan is posted in all classrooms and office areas. Volunteers are bound by procedures that include quietly and quickly exiting the building upon the sound of the fire alarm.

Child Abuse Laws

State law requires that volunteers are to inform the principal of any suspicions of abuse. Again, the volunteer has the legal obligation to report to the administration any suspicions or concerns relative to the safety of the children.

Loyalty to Church and School

When you volunteer at our school, you are a representative of the church and school. You should support the directions given by staff and administration. If you disagree with school policy, the principal will be happy to hear your concerns and discuss them with you. Since you are serving in a Catholic school, you are expected to support the teachings of the Catholic Church and to live in a manner consistent with them.

Supervision of Volunteers

The principal is responsible for the total school operation; thus, the principal supervises all who serve in any capacity to the school.

School's Right to Amend

The school reserves the right to amend this handbook, and volunteers will be notified promptly of any changes.

Volunteer Opportunities.

This list is subject to change. Please refer to the parent section of the school website, weekly emails, and social media for other volunteer opportunities.

Fundraisers

- Box Tops for Education
- AmeriGas Program
- Read-a-Thon
- Harvest Festival
- Special Events
- Restaurant Spirit Nights
- School Supply Kits

Special Events

- Family Fun Night / Trunk or Treat
- Samaritan Center Soup Bowl
- Christmas Parade / Float
- Drama Club / School Play
- School Christmas Program
- Grandparents Day
- St. Helen EXPO/School Booth
- Lenten Soup Pot (1st Friday of Lent)
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Vacation Bible School

Other Service Opportunities

- Room Parent Volunteer
- School Lunch Volunteer
- School Snack Room Volunteer
- Falcon Shop
- Uniform Swap
- Office / Clerical work
- Marketing & Social Media Ambassador
- Alumni Association
- Church Nursery
- Church Greeters
- Parish Hospitality
- Youth on a Mission (YOAM)