

BROTHER MARTIN HIGH SCHOOL CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROGRAM

The Christian Service Program at Brother Martin High School aims to inspire members of the Brother Martin community to embody the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, the principles of Catholic social teaching, and the charism of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart through experiences of and critical reflection on direct service to people who are underserved in our world. The program seeks to help students begin to reflect on the complexity of our world's social issues and their responsibility in using their unique gifts and talents for the promotion of social justice and the common good. It hopes to instill in its participants a lifelong commitment to service and courageous advocacy for justice through the development of the virtues of solidarity, charity, and justice as modeled in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

SERVICE CRITERIA:

- At each grade level, students are required to complete a set minimum number of hours of service (see below).
- **FOCUS HOURS:** *At least half of a student's required service hours must be performed at an agency that addresses the social issue designated as the focus for the student's grade level.* Preapproved service placements for each grade level are provided on the preapproved service placement lists posted on the Christian Service Program page of the Brother Martin website. If a student wishes to volunteer with an event or agency that is not on the grade level preapproved service placement lists, the student must receive written approval of the alternative service from their Religion teacher or Mr. McCabe *prior* to volunteering. *Failure to obtain written approval may result in a student's hours not being accepted.*
- **GENERAL HOURS:** *The other half of a student's required service hours may be performed at almost any non-profit organization.* Preapproved organizations and opportunities can be found on the General Preapproved Service Placements list. Please note: In order for the hours to be accepted, *the service must involve volunteering with a non-profit organization*, such as Catholic Charities, local schools, church parishes, food banks, etc. Volunteer work done with a Brother Martin team, club, or camp can be used to fulfill this half of the service requirement.

GRADE LEVEL MINIMUMS AND FOCUS AREAS:

Grade Level	Minimum Total Hours	Focus Area (Must make up to half of minimum total hours)
8th	10 total hours (At least 5 focus hours →)	With a preapproved non-profit organization that cares for the environment.
9th	10 total hours (At least 5 focus hours →)	With a preapproved non-profit organization that cares for people who are elderly, sick or dying
10th	20 total hours (At least 10 focus hours →)	With a preapproved non-profit organization that cares for people with disabilities/special needs
11th	60 total hours (At least 30 focus hours →)	With a preapproved non-profit organization of the student's choice that involves direct service to those in need
12th	20 total hours (At least 10 focus hours →)	With a preapproved non-profit organization that cares for people who are food-insecure, unhoused, or in poverty

Completion of the required service hours is mandated for advancement to the next grade level and for graduation. Thus, students may have to make up their service hours (and additional hours) at Summer Session if they do not complete the required minimums. Seniors may not receive their Brother Martin diplomas until they meet these criteria. The dates for service deadlines will be provided to students by their Religion teacher at the start of the school year.