



St. Bernadette Catholic Elementary School

Service Hour Program

Jesus Christ gave us the eight Beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount, recorded for all future generations in the Gospel of Matthew. Jesus offers us a way of life that promises eternity in the Kingdom of Heaven. St. Bernadette Catholic Elementary Schools seeks to bring that teaching of Matthew's Gospel into practice through service to others. The message of Jesus is one of humility, charity, and brotherly love.

At St. Bernadette School our number one priority is the spiritual development of the child. We are committed to providing an opportunity to experience religion as a way of life and living our faith in our everyday activities. The students are challenged to engage in service projects to the needy of the community as well as foreign mission projects.

Service hours are part of the requirements for Religion class for 5th, 6th, and 7th graders and are graded as follows:

Each service hour will be worth 10 points. The reflection will be worth 5 points. These points will be part of the student's Religion grade. Failure to meet the service requirements will result in a zero. Students must have the approved school form completed and handed to Mrs. Drickamer by the end of each nine weeks. The forms can be obtained from your Mrs. Drickamer or the portal. All service hours must be completed from the approved St. Bernadette School list. Should you want to perform service at an activity or agency not listed, approval must be given by Mrs. Ramona prior to the hours being completed.

A space has been provided for your reflection of one paragraph should be written on your signed service hour form. Your reflection should consist of one Paragraph which must include at least 5 sentences, but should not exceed 10 sentences. Remember, a paragraph needs an introductory sentence, which should discuss where, when, and with whom the service hour was completed. When writing the rest of your paragraph, you may be inspired to discuss your own unique thoughts on the project, or you may wish to use the following questions as a guide:

- What did you learn from you experience?
- How did performing this hour of service to your community make you feel about yourself?
- Did you enjoy your hour and would you choose this type of service again in the future?
- Did you make the most of your time?
- Do you think completing these service hours makes you a better Christian? Why or Why not?
- What will you do differently when completing you next hour of service?
- 1 reflection is due the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd 9 weeks.

Grade level Requirements:

- 5th graders are required to do ½ hour of service each 9 weeks
1 ½ per year = 5 points for service + 5 points for reflection = 10 points per 9 weeks
- 6th graders are required to do 1 hour of service each 9 weeks
3 per year = 10 points for service + 5 points for reflection = 15 points per 9 weeks
- 7th graders are required to do 2 hours of service each 9 weeks
6 per year = 20 points for service + 5 points for reflection = 25 points per 9 weeks

NOTE: 7th grade jobs will count as 1 of the 2 hours needed, students with 7th grade jobs will only need 1 hour of service in addition to their 7th grade job. 7th grade students without 7th grade jobs will be required to do 2 hours of service.

No service hours are due the 4th 9 weeks.

Important information:

1. Service hour forms must be turned in by the end of the 9 weeks for the first three 9 weeks. The final due dates are: **October 7th, December 17th, and March 15th.**
2. A reminder will be posted on the portal calendar.
3. Students may begin submitting their service hours any time before the end of the 9 weeks.
4. After two days past the due date, the religion class letter grade will be lowered each day thereafter.
5. Parents may not sign the form as a “supervisor” unless approved by Mrs. Ramona.
6. Students may not use service with their family. Helping family and friends is something we should all be called to do. This will not count as service hours.
7. Service hours must be performed within the current 9 weeks unless approved by Mrs. Ramona in advance (such as helping with school supplies in the summer).
8. 7th grade student jobs will count as 1 of the 2 hours needed each 9 weeks, for 7th grade students with student jobs. Students without 7th grade student jobs will have to complete 2 hours. No reflection is needed for the 7th grade student job, only for the other hour.
9. Any questions as to whether service hours will be accepted should also be directed to Mrs. Ramona.

Listed below are the places where students may choose from to earn service hours.

- A. St. Bernadette students may receive service hours for helping out at school functions (before/after school hours).
- B. Local area Catholic churches. Students may earn service hours by helping with CCD programs, teaching Bible school, Sunday school, baby sitting during Mass or any church activities. Also, by serving on the weekends as altar servers, greeters, gift bearer, and lectors.
- C. Other Organization - non profit
 1. Community Toy, Food, and Clothing Drives. This is usually around holiday seasons organized by most local Catholic Churches.
 2. Good Samaritan Food Bank
 3. Participate in a Walk-a-thon, Life Chair, Special Olympics, etc. for charity
 4. Volunteer to help with St. Bernadette Church Picnic on October 10th.
 5. Volunteer to help with the Animal Shelter, Panda Meander Race, etc
 6. Beta, and 4-H sponsored activities (Attendance at meetings, practices do not count.)

*Note: Helping in concession stands at sporting events will also not count.