

St. John Paul II Catholic High School



A College Preparatory High School

Learn ♦ Lead ♦ Live

2020-2021 Service Booklet

Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama

Governing Leadership

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*St. John Paul II Catholic High School
was founded in 1996 under the auspices
of the Most Reverend David E. Foley,
Bishop of Birmingham in Alabama*

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***For available service opportunities students
should check Google Classroom.***

OUR MISSION

St. John Paul II Catholic High School develops young people in spirit, mind and body to foster a lifelong discipleship of Christ in the sacramental life of the Church.

We encourage, challenge, and support each student to learn enthusiastically, lead honorably, and live responsibly.

OUR VISION

St. John Paul II Catholic High School teaches as Jesus did, challenging, loving, and guiding our young people to develop their God-given gifts and talents to be academically prepared, socially responsible, humble in service to others, and active participants in the life of the Church.

OUR VALUES

Faith and Service

We practice the teachings of the Catholic Church and call each member of our community to a life of ministry and service.

Dignity and Diversity

We honor and respect individuals, embracing differences in a unified loving community.

Excellence and Quality

We promote the highest standards of achievement in our four pillars of Academics, Arts, Athletics, and Spiritual formation.

Graduation Community Service Requirements

Service to God by serving others is at the heart of spiritual education at St. John Paul II Catholic High School. Our service program is rooted in the Gospel call and reflects our Catholic identity. It is our goal to assist each student in embracing the values of the common good which comes from serving others and instilling the desire for a life-long commitment to service within the community. JP II students complete at least one hundred (100) hours of service as a graduation requirement. Transfer students complete twenty-five (25) hours per school year while at JP II. Senior transfer students have until April of the 2nd semester to complete their service hours. Incoming 9th grade students may begin Community Service Projects as soon as they graduate 8th grade.

Students are encouraged to choose service projects sponsored by pre-approved specified agencies, i.e. registered non-profit agencies. Projects for organizations that are not known non-profits must be pre-approved by the Student Service Projects Coordinator before any work is begun. Opportunities with individual agencies are posted in x2vol and Google Classroom. Service hours are not considered complete until the appropriate information is provided in x2vol and approved by the Student Service Projects Coordinator.

Service hours that have not been completed by the end of the first semester of the senior year will result in loss of senior privileges and/or delayed or denied graduation.

General Service Guidelines

- Volunteer hours with non-profit organizations do not need pre-approval.
- Volunteer hours that are school-sponsored do not need pre-approval.
- All activities require an adult supervisor to verify hours and rate the student.
- The email contact information of the adult supervisor must be input for the verification of hours.
- Parents may not be the adult supervisor except in rare cases when the exception is approved by the Student Service Projects Coordinator.

In general, a project may be acceptable if:

- The candidate is interactive with the clients of the agency.
- The project has social or spiritual merit.
- The activity is done with a non-profit organization.
- The service will directly or indirectly serve the elderly, disabled, sick, poor, or youth.
- The activity has real consequences or benefits for other people.

Unacceptable projects include:

- Anything for which money is paid.
- Time spent on drudge work (simple, tedious, repetitive) such as filing, replacing books on library shelves, attendance at club meetings, and routine activities.
- Activities where there is no responsible adult on site to evaluate and confirm the candidate's performance.

Service Hour Types

Types of service that meet the service requirement:

1. **Direct service hours:** direct service hours are given when the student's volunteer work exclusively involves personal interaction in some way with the elderly, disabled, sick, poor, or youth. Of the 100 hours needed to satisfy the graduation requirement, at least 25 must be categorized as direct in nature by the Dean of Student Life.
2. **Indirect service hours:** indirect service hours are given when the student's volunteer service falls under any of the accepted placement agencies that serve the elderly, disabled, sick, poor or youth, but does NOT offer personal interaction.
3. **Other service hours:** service to other non-profit organizations that do not fall under direct or indirect may be placed in the other category. In addition, other types of volunteer work fall in the other category provided the Dean of Student Life give approval of the activity before it is begun. Rote chores, activities that are paid, and activities that are supervised by the student's own parents may not count toward the 100 hour requirement. If in doubt, the student should meet with the Dean of Student Life to discuss the service activity.

x2vol Online Recordkeeping

To simplify the record-keeping, St. John Paul II Catholic High School subscribes to the x2vol component of the Naviance® software program. This tracking system provides the following:

1. Students are able to input their own activities on a regular basis and service hours are automatically tallied.
2. Electronically, service activity sponsors may verify the completion of the service activity. In an optional comment box, sponsors may rate the student's performance regarding cooperation, initiative, effort and attitude and add other comments as they wish.
3. The administrators of St. John Paul II as well as the counselors and Dean of Student Life will have access to the student service page in order to give encouragement and monitor progress.

4. The dashboard (opening page) shows students how many hours are required for their grade, how many they have accomplished and how many hours have been tallied in the categories of direct, indirect or other volunteer service.
5. Each service activity requires ***student reflections*** regarding the following:
 - a. Summarize what you did in this activity/project.
 - b. How did this activity/project benefit others?
 - c. What did you learn about yourself and others through this activity/project?
 - d. Did this service meet any of the corporal or spiritual works of mercy? If so, which one and how?
 - e. How can you apply what you have learned in other life situations?

Service Hour Timeline by Year

Freshmen – 25 hours

From 8th grade graduation until the end of May of the 9th grade year

Sophomores – 25 hours

From June after 9th grade until the end of May of the 10th grade year

Juniors – 25 hours

From June after 10th grade until the end of May of the 11th grade year

Seniors – 25 hours

From June after 11th grade to April of the 12th grade year

THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

The Corporal Works of Mercy are found in the **teachings of Jesus** and give us a model for how we should treat all others, as if they were Christ in disguise. They "are charitable actions by which we help our neighbors in their bodily needs." They respond to the basic needs of humanity as we journey together through this life.

The seven Corporal Works of Mercy are listed below. After each work of mercy there are also suggestions and words of advice for living them out in our daily lives.

FEED THE HUNGRY

There are many people in this world who go without food. When so much of our food goes to waste, consider how good stewardship practices of your own food habits can benefit others who do not have those same resources.

- Having delicious food at Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner? Donate to a Thanksgiving or Christmas food drive so everyone can have something to eat.
- Research, identify and contribute financially to organizations that serve the hungry.
- The next time you make a recipe that can be easily frozen, make a double batch and donate one to your local food pantry or soup kitchen.

GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY

Many of our brothers and sisters in Christ do not have access to clean water and suffer from the lack of this basic necessity. We should support the efforts of those working towards greater accessibility of this essential resource.

- We take it for granted that we have access to clean water. Donate to help build wells for water for those in need
- Organize a group of children involved on a sports team (e.g. soccer) or a summer camp. Invite them to collect bottled water to distribute at a shelter for families. If parents can be involved, ask them to accompany their children in delivering the water to the families.
- Do the same for youth and young adult groups.

SHELTER THE HOMELESS

There are many circumstances that could lead to someone becoming a person without a home. Christ encourages us to go out and meet those without homes, affirming their worth and helping them seek a resolution to the challenges they face.

- See if your parish or diocese is involved with a local homeless shelter and volunteer some time.
- Donate time or money to organizations that build homes for those who need shelter.
- Many homeless shelters need warm blankets for their beds. If you can knit or sew that would be an extra loving gift.
- There are millions of children and families who are on the move, fleeing from war, illness, hunger and impossible living conditions, and searching for peace and safety. Engage parish groups of children, youth, young adults, and families in doing some research on the causes and challenges that these families face to survive. Contact Catholic Social Services, or diocesan offices of peace and justice for help with your

research. Seek ways to provide shelter for the homeless locally, regionally, nationally or internationally.

VISIT THE SICK

Those who are sick are often forgotten or avoided. In spite of their illness, these individuals still have much to offer to those who take the time to visit and comfort them.

- Give blood
- Spend time volunteering at a nursing home – Get creative and make use of your talents (e.g. sing, read, paint, call Bingo, etc.)!
- Take time on a Saturday to stop and visit with an elderly neighbor.
- Offer to assist caregivers of chronically sick family members on a one-time or periodic basis. Give caregivers time off from their caregiving responsibilities so they can rest, complete personal chores, or enjoy a relaxing break.

BURY THE DEAD

Funerals give us the opportunity to grieve and show others support during difficult times. Through our prayers and actions during these times we show our respect for life, which is always a gift from God, and comfort to those who mourn.

- Send a card to someone who has recently lost a loved one. Make your own card and use some of these **prayers**.

GIVE ALMS TO THE POOR

Donate money to organizations that have the ability to provide support and services for those in need. Do research and find organizations that put people in need first, rather than profit.

- Skip the morning latte and put that money in the collection basket at church.
- Find a charity that is meaningful to you and volunteer your time or donate.
- This Lent, give up eating out at restaurants. Pack your meals and donate the extra money to charities.

THE SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

The Spiritual Works of Mercy have long been a part of the Christian tradition, appearing in the works of theologians and spiritual writers throughout history. Just as Jesus attended to the spiritual well-being of those he ministered to, these Spiritual Works of Mercy guide us to "help our neighbor in their spiritual needs."

The seven Spiritual Works of Mercy are listed below. After each work of mercy there are also suggestions and words of advice for living them out in our daily lives.

COUNSELING THE DOUBTFUL

Everyone has moments of doubt in their faith journey. Nevertheless, we should always remember that Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life and turn to him along our way.

- Follow Christ with the witness of your life so that others may see God's love revealed in your actions
- Accompany a friend who is struggling with believing to join a parish group for service or faith formation, share a book you found useful in dealing with your friend's faith concern, and worship at Sunday Mass

INSTRUCTING THE IGNORANT

Learn about our faith and be open to talking with others about our beliefs. There is always something more to discover about our faith.

- Go on a service trip or short term mission trip. No time? Donate to support someone on their service trip
- Volunteer to help with religious education programs at your parish
- Invite someone to go to mass with you this weekend

ADMONISHING THE SINNER

Do not judge, but be supportive in helping others find their way and correct their mistakes. Together we can learn to walk more closely with Christ.

- In humility we must strive to create a culture that does not accept sin, while realizing that we all fall at times
- When you correct someone, don't be arrogant. We are all in need of God's loving correction.
- We should journey together to a deeper understanding of our shared faith

COMFORTING THE SORROWFUL

Be open to listening and comforting those who are dealing with grief. Even if we aren't sure of the right words to say, our presence can make a big difference.

- Lend a listening ear to those going through a tough time
- Make a home cooked meal for a friend who is facing a difficult time
- Write a letter or send a card to someone who is suffering

FORGIVING INJURIES

Forgiving others is difficult at times because we do not have God's limitless mercy and compassion. But Jesus teaches us that we should forgive as God forgives, relying on him to help us show others the mercy of God

- Let go of grudges
- Saying sorry is something we learn as kids, but how often do we really mean it? Forgiveness transforms hearts and lives

BEARING WRONGS PATIENTLY

Do not be bitter about wrongs done against you. Place your hope in God so that you can endure the troubles of this world and face them with a compassionate spirit.

PRAYING FOR THE LIVING AND THE DEAD

Prayer is one of the most powerful ways we can support others. Joining together in prayer for the living and the dead entrusts us all into God's care.

- Request a mass intention for a friend or family member who is going through a tough time
- Request a mass intention for a friend or family member who has passed away
- Keep your own book of prayer intentions, writing down the names of those who you are keeping in your prayers
- Ask a friend or family member if there is anything you can pray for them about
- Through prayer, entrust your cares and concerns for those around you to God