

GIRARD ACADEMIC MUSIC PROGRAM

COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENT

COMMUNITY SERVICE / SERVICE LEARNING AT GAMP

GAMP is implementing a mandatory community service program for all high school students. This program will be phased in beginning with the 2016-17 school year. This brochure will explain the program and answer questions about it.

Who will have to perform community service?

The service requirement will apply to all high school students (grades 9 through 12). Each student will have to perform community service for an average of 10 hours per year, for a total of 40 hours over the high school years. During the first three years of the Community Service Program, students' service requirement will be pro-rated to reflect a cumulative total of 10 hours per year. For freshman students and all students thereafter, a cumulative total of 40 service hours throughout the students' high school career must be logged **on or before June 1 of the year that the student is graduating.**

Why is a Community Service Program being implemented?

This year, the GAMP School Advisory Council began discussing implementing an initiative like this. It quickly became apparent that performing community service can be a win/win for the students. Here are some of the reasons:

- Giving back to the community is the right thing to do. We want to encourage in our students a feeling of responsibility to make the world a better place.
- Service learning helps prepare students to assume leadership roles in the community.
- Community service activities allow students additional opportunities to learn and develop skills, exhibit positive behaviors, and gain a post-high school advantage.
- Many music and arts organizations are non-profit groups that rely on significant volunteer support to maintain their programming.

When will the Community Service Program Start?

Students are required to complete at least 10 hours per year in freshman, sophomore, and junior year. If students have completed 40 or more hours by the end of junior year, they do not need to complete service in senior year.

Do I have to get approval of an organization before doing my volunteer work?

At the beginning of the school year, students will be asked to provide their name, grade and entity(ies) at which they may be volunteering during the year. Then, **before performing volunteer work**, they can check with the school counselor to ensure that the organization is an approved entity so that they can be sure that their volunteer hours will meet the community service requirement.

What qualifies as a community service activity?

The community service activity is chosen and initiated by the student, based on their interests.

There are a wide range of activities that will qualify as community service, and students do not have to complete all of their service hours at one organization.

To determine whether an activity qualifies as a community service activity, the following criteria must be met:

- Students may not get paid for a service activity.

- Community Service must be completed at a non-profit organization; therefore students must confirm that an organization is a non-profit prior to performing activities. As a general rule, activities performed at libraries, schools, Meals on Wheels, hospices, Habitat for Humanity, and soup kitchens/community outreach programs are acceptable. Please keep in mind that hair salons, most doctors' offices, physical therapy facilities and most daycare centers are for profit businesses and therefore unacceptable, even if the work is unpaid.

- Membership in a service club or organization does not necessarily constitute Community Service. However, if the club performs service activities in the community or school beyond club meeting times, this can be counted as service.

- Service may not be performed for family members or for profit-making organizations.

- Service may not be performed during the school day, unless approved in advance.

- Service performed at faith-based organizations such as churches, synagogues or mosques will be counted towards the community service requirement **as long as the activities are not religious in nature**. For example, activities performed at an after school program housed in a church will count, but assisting in a worship service or Bible Study does not count.

- Campaigning for any particular political party **will not count** towards community service hours. Service for non-partisan organizations (like The Committee for Seventy) and participation in

voter registration activities can be counted.

A list of resources and suggested community service activities is attached to this brochure.

How will Community Service Hours be monitored?

Students will submit a digital Google form that GAMP will create in order to get their service pre-approved. Students will record the hours spent doing a particular service on the form and sign an attestation that the work was completed. Completion of hours will be monitored by Marissa Ortiz.

What will happen if I don't complete my Community Service Hours before June 1 of my graduation year?

Completing your service hours is a graduation requirement. Approved service hours must be completed and recorded in order to graduate from GAMP.

Community Service Resources

Serve Philadelphia: <http://volunteer.phila.gov>

-The mayor's Office of Community Engagement and Volunteer Service

VolunteerMatch: <http://www.volunteermatch.org>

-VolunteerMatch is a national nonprofit dedicated to strengthening communities by helping good people and good causes to connect. Its award-winning online service makes it easy for students to find a way to make a difference by location, expertise, or availability.

DoSomething.org: <https://www.dosomething.org/us>

-DoSomething connects young people to worthwhile causes and activities in their area.

Potential Community Service Activities

National Constitution Center. The Constitution Center runs a volunteer program for high school students.

Hospitals. Many area hospitals are non-profit corporations who welcome student. Students can learn new skills, and gain experience in a health-care environment.

Teaching / Coaching. Working with younger students through a non-profit giving music lessons, coaching sports, and similar activities.

Community Beautification. Park clean up days, including work not only at Girard Park but also other neighborhood parks or areas of Fairmount Park.

The Red Cross. Volunteering to help at blood drives.

Cultural Organizations. Volunteering for cultural organizations such as museums, arts organizations, music focused non-profits, or the Philadelphia Zoo.

Community Service Documentation
Girard Academic Music Program

Student Name:

Grade:

Advisor:

Name of Nonprofit / Community Organization Served:

Number of Hours:

Brief Description of Task(s) Performed:

Student Signature

Date

Signature of Authorized Organization Representative

Date