



## Community Service Project Holy Family Academy Catholic School

*"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, lacking clothes and you clothed me - in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me."*

*(Matthew 25, 35-40)*

### I. REQUIREMENT

Central to Holy Family Academy's mission is the expression of our faith in service to others and the good stewardship of the gifts God has given us. We believe that service to others is an integral part of the educational program of our school and that all students will find it rewarding and helpful in their growth. Our hope is to foster a gradual understanding of genuine discipleship and personal responsibility as global citizens by engaging students in meaningful experiences of service to individuals, families and organizations in need in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

To this end, students are required to complete **40 hours of a meaningful Community Service Project** as part of their high school graduation requirement during 11<sup>th</sup> grade. A student can earn up to one academic credit toward their minimum graduation requirements by successfully completing an approved Community Service Project (CSP). To qualify for this credit, the service must be meaningful (please refer to page 2) and be performed outside of school hours (afterschool, Saturdays or Sundays). Creditable hours include preparation (research, marketing, planning meetings with organization, etc.). **Only 8 hours from the community service hours to be performed are to be used for preparation** (meaning research, marketing, planning). Students **MUST** complete all 40 hours in order to receive credit and pass.

Student CSPs may take place in a variety of settings, including not-for-profit organizations, church (e.g. Our Lady of Divine Providence), service and charitable organizations or hospitals. The project has to clearly delineate a problem in the community and the benefit that such CSP will bring to individuals, families or local communities. The CSP cannot be of a political or advocacy nature. Students will not be paid for performing any CSP. Where an event or activity does not clearly fall within the guidelines, the principal and community service heads have the discretion to approve or reject any activity or event that does not conform to the guiding principles.

It is the individual student's responsibility to choose a teacher mentor. The role of the mentor will be to guide and supervise students as they carry out the projects, sign off on their attendance log from beginning to end and **award points to written submissions**. Parents cannot be a mentor. **It is the student's responsibility to approach his or her mentor regarding any aspect of their community service.** The mentor is not required and should not have to approach the student regarding any missing parts or hours of their project.

**Only 4 students may do in-house community service project.** For those completing a project outside of HFA you **MUST** have a HFA teacher-mentor **and** an outside mentor to monitor the progress of the project.

## **II. IDENTIFYING MEANINGFUL COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS**

To be “meaningful”, Community Service Projects must address a real need or problem found within the school or community. Students are given the opportunity to select a Community Service Projects that reflects both the needs of the community and their personal interests and skills. In addition, quality projects require an on-going commitment on the part of students. The following criteria should be considered when a student selects a community service project:

- The project addresses a **real** community need or problem.
- The project provides the student with the opportunity to provide meaningful and vital community service.
- The project allows a student to gain a greater understanding of the community need or problem on which they are working.
- The project reflects the student's interests, talents and abilities.
- The project provides the student with the opportunity to grow personally and academically
- The project helps students connect classroom experiences to their service to the community.
- The project provides the opportunity for continuity of service and/or participation over a significant portion of the student's 11<sup>th</sup> grade/high school experience.