



The Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School board encourage students to become involved in the community, both locally and globally. Schools have been engaging students, both Elementary and Secondary in Voluntary Christian Service Opportunities. Through the Christian Service Program students will continue to be challenged and will be able to put into practice their Baptismal Commitment to serve others, especially those “who are least among us” (Mt. 25:35-36, 40) and fulfill their graduation requirements legislated at 40 hours.



Walking the Path of Christian Service

“I . . . your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet... I have given you an example that you also should do as I have done to you” John 13: 13 – 15.



INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- A requirement of a class or course (e.g., co-operative education portion of the course; job shadowing; work experience);
- Takes place during instructional time on a school day (activities before, during lunch, spare periods or after school are permissible);
- Would normally be performed for wages in a workplace by an employer; Involves operating a vehicle, power tools, scaffolding;
- Involves administering any type or form of medication or medical procedure to other persons;
- Involves handling “designated substances” under the Occupational Health & Safety Act;
- Consists of normal duties required to be completed at home (e.g., daily chores); Is considered personal recreational activity;
- Any activity that provides direct financial benefit or other gain (social, political, etc.) to the student or his/her family or to a business;
- Any association with an organization or organizational activity that conflicts with Roman Catholic Church teachings and ethical standards;
- Requires the knowledge of a trade’s person whose trade is regulated by the provincial government;
- Involves a court-ordered program (e.g., community-service program for young offenders, probationary program);
- Any profit-making business;
- Any informal activities, such as child care or yard work, unless special circumstances are involved;
- Working for a political party or a candidate during an election.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- An event or activity designed to be of benefit to the community;
- An event or activity to support a charitable agency, institution or foundation that conforms to Catholic standards;
- Any structured non-profit program that promotes free tutoring, mentoring, visiting or coaching, or whose purpose is to assist others who require the benefit of that assistance;
- Participation in global humanitarian initiatives/projects that do not conflict with Catholic Values;
- Participation in an event or activity that promotes positive environmental awareness and action;
- Participation in activities that promote the human rights and well-being of all groups in society, as long as the values of these groups are in harmony with Catholic teaching.

AGENCIES & CHARITABLE FUNDRAISING –walks, runs, rides, charity gift wrapping, gala events, bazaars, charity sports events, assist in non-profit agencies that conform to Catholic teachings...

ARTS & CULTURE– non-profit art galleries, dance/musical drama performances for non-profit centres, museums, heritage sites, non-profit ethnic clubs, community band/orchestra/choir (not practices), Heritage Language School aid, Doors Open park Hamilton..

COMMUNITY COMMITTEES– youth advisory boards, SADD, Out of the Cold/Heat, Student Crew for Action Against Tobacco, Hamilton Civic League....

COMMUNITY EVENTS– seasonal carnivals, fairs, festivals, parades, celebrations.....

COMMUNITY PROJECTS– assisting at food banks/drives, service clubs such as Optimist, senior clubs etc., Hamilton Food Share, Habitat for Humanity and Re-store, Snow Angels, Halloween for Hunger, L’Arche Community Living, St. Vincent de Paul ,Royal Canadian Legion, Mission Services Neighbour to Neighbour, Good Shepherd....

ENVIRONMENTAL & ANIMAL CARE– Earth Day activities, school recycling, Naturalist Club events, Victory Gardens, Green Venture, BARC, non-profit beautification projects, Bruce Trail events, Conservation clean up, SPCA, pet therapy, TEAD....

FAITH BASED – church children’s programs, Eucharistic ministries, lector, choir (not practices), altar serving, Church youth groups and camp assistance, Walk for Christ (Justice for the Poor Pilgrimage), Pilgrimage to Lourdes, Chain of Life, Thinkfast, D.R.E.A.M.S. (Dominican Republic Education and Medical Support) program, Peace and Justice Groups.

HEALTH– assist in blood and flu clinics, VON, Red Cross, Public Health initiatives, Kids Help Phone, hospitals such as St. Joseph’s Hospital in Hamilton.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY– Peer Mentor/tutor, Parent/Teacher Interviews and/or Conference guide, helps in Elementary school events, breakfast club....

SPORTS & RECREATION– assist in minor sports leagues, not for profit sports clubs, Special Olympics, CANUSA, help in feeder schools, assist in City run recreational activities and camps.

WORK WITH SENIORS– Must be in an organization for seniors such as St. Joseph’s Villa in Hamilton, ON and Not a **Private Home**. Involvement with seniors includes seniors’ clubs, friendly visiting, recreational/craft activities....

YOUTH PROGRAMS– assisting in Guiding or Scouting Organizations, 4H Club, non-paying city recreational activities assistant, drop-in centres, Leaders in Training Programs for non-profit organizations, special needs programs, library programs, city or subsidized day care centres, YMCA, Kiwanis Clubs, City Kidz, Best Buddies....

NOTE: If a Christian Service Activity is NOT listed above, it MUST be approved by your Christian Service Animator!

