

Student Service Learning (SSL) Notes
Give a Little Time...Make a Big Difference
February 2010

Students MEET REAL NEED and ACHIEVE CURRICULAR OBJECTIVES.

- Participate in school-sponsored clubs and organizations that promote service.
- Consider service activities in celebration of President's Day, February 15, 2010.
- Get involved in service-learning activities on the afternoons of "Early Release" days. (Like Friday, February 26, 2010--- coming up!)
- Remember: SSL is a state graduation requirement just like any other...It must be completed in order for students to graduate from Montgomery County Schools.
- Find meaningful, high quality service-learning opportunities by searching www.mcpsssl.org.

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March 2010

Students GAIN NECESSARY KNOWLEDGE and SKILLS.

- Spring Break at the end of this month is a good time to get involved in service. Consider all opportunities to *learn* about real need and yourself as well as *earn* SSL hours toward the state graduation requirement.
- Students who have met the graduation requirement of 75 hours by the first Friday in April of a middle school year will be awarded the Superintendent's SSL Award. This year, due to the spring break, documentation of service is due to the SSL coordinator by the 2nd Friday in April (4-9-10).
- Seniors who have documented 260 or more SSL hours by the first Friday in April will be awarded a Certificate of Meritorious Service. This year due to the spring break documentation for this award is due to the SSL coordinator by the 2nd Friday in April.
- Middle School students enrolled in Grade 6 science, Grade 7 English, and Grade 8 social studies will have opportunities to engage in service-learning activities during the instructional day. Verification of service in these courses is required using MCPS Form 560-51, *Student Service Learning Activity Verification*.
- When you think about service for which SSL hours are awarded think: nonprofit, tax exempt, organization, public place, secular in nature, adult supervision, (not a parent) meeting a real need !

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April 2010

Students PLAN AHEAD.

- High school students enrolled in the National, State, and Local Government course have the opportunity to earn 7 SSL hours during Semester A, and 8 SSL hours during Semester B for their full participation in the SSL aspects, and successful completion of the course.
- All SSL organizations and opportunities must be preapproved. Organizations tagged, "Approved SSL MCPS" on the website www.mcpsssl.org and organizations tagged, "MCPS SSL Approved" can be great sources for meaningful SSL involvement.
- Check your report card and be sure the hours that are recorded there are the same as your records indicate. If there is a discrepancy discuss it immediately with the school-based SSL coordinator. The report card record is official!
- There is no need to wait and turn in verification of hours at the end of the second semester. You may turn them in now and see the hours reflected in your record. But the deadline to turn in hours performed during the second semester is Friday, June 4, 2010.
- Providing direct service to individuals in assisted-living facilities and nursing homes is the only exception to serving with nonprofit organizations. Be sure to get an MCPS Form 560-50, *Request for SSL Preapproval* signed in advance with organizations that are not tagged as "Approved SSL MCPS".

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May 2010

Students WORK WITH EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS.

- Religious organizations may be approved for SSL when the focus of meeting needs in the greater community is done by providing secular activities.
- Students may serve on campaigns of individuals running for public office. MCPS Form 560-50, *Request for SSL Preapproval* is required in advance of any service.
- All forms required to document SSL may be found on the website www.mcpsssl.org or at any middle or high school.
- Students are encouraged to make copies of all SSL documentation.

- Documentation of all service performed during the second semester is due to the SSL coordinator by the Friday before first semester exams begin (June 4, 2010)

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June 2010

Students DEVELOP A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY

- Summer is a great time to get involved in high quality service-learning. Search the website www.mcpsssl.org to find something that will be meaningful for you.
- During the summer months when school-based SSL coordinators are not in their buildings SSL questions and requests for preapproval may be referred to Pam Meador 301-279-3454.
- Students may earn 1 SSL hour for every hour of service during the summer months. (maximum 8 hours in a 24-hour period).
- All service for which SSL hours are granted must occur in a public place under the supervision of an adult representing a nonprofit, tax exempt organization.
- Well-written reflections on MCPS Form 560-51 become part of a student's permanent record. Taking time to write a good one is a good idea.