

**ST. MARY SCHOOL BOARD
20 HOUR POLICY**

Many private and parochial schools have mandatory service hour requirements that are intended to address involvement by all parents for the financial support of the school. As you may know, parochial schools try to achieve a balance between modest tuition to make a Catholic school education affordable for all who make the choice for their children, and the ever increasing demands of operations to support facilities and academic programming. As has been repeatedly mentioned, tuition alone does not cover the costs attendant to educating our children even with the most conservative and thoughtful application of available funding. We are fortunate that we have a strong base of parent volunteers who have given countless hours toward the effort.

It is with this understanding that St. Mary's has decided to re-institute service hours requirements. Below is an explanation of what qualifies as "service hours" and how credit for service hours are kept.

"SERVICE HOUR" DEFINITION: Any time spent on an activity that directly supports ST. MARY SCHOOL through fundraising or in-kind donations and services.

The following are examples of activities that can be applied for this requirement:

- **Home & School Association (HSA) Officer**
- **Committee Chair for any SMS function**
- **CYO coach, and assistant coach**
- **SMS Boy Scout and Girl Scout leader**
- **Homerom Parent**
- **Library duty**
- **HSA activities**
- **Escorting students to museums, plays, concerts, and retreats**
- **Helping with church liturgies**
- **Organizing/working fundraising events**
- **Baking for school events (2 items equal 1 hour: You MUST sign in at said event.)**
- **The donation of goods and services that directly benefit the school qualify as well.**

SERVICE HOUR POLICY: Each family is required to work a MINIMUM of 20 hours, or shall be assessed \$10.00 per hour for each hour of unperformed service. If for any reason you are unable to work the required hours you can choose to pay the activity fee of \$200.00 for a single child or \$250.00 for 2 or more children.

All hours will be tracked by the Home & School Association. It shall be the sole responsibility of each family to document their hours with the appointed SMS representative at the time of the event or when the donated goods are delivered.

The education of our children and parental involvement go hand in hand. In order to successfully educate our children in all aspects of learning, parents need to be involved with the process. Your participation in the events and activities of SMS is for the good of our children and will be truly appreciated.

I/We have read and understand the 20 Service Hour policy. I/We understand that this is part of the registration requirements, and will remain active as long as my child(ren) attend SMS.

Parent Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date