

Koraes Cares

Community Service

Koraes Elementary School is excited to continue our service learning program. Community service hours are required for students enrolled in grades K-8. Our desire is to have all students participate in service projects to introduce and educate them about the value and satisfaction of common service. Students in grades K-8 will find that community service gives them an opportunity to nurture compassion for others and to better understand themselves. Teachers and families are welcome to work together to establish a classroom project. During the 2018-19 the total number of service hours was just over 1,900. Can we beat that?

Community Service is defined as work done for someone other than a relative, for which the student is not paid.

The Koraes Cares Community Service Program is designed to encourage students to “be a servant” to others. We want our students to follow the example of Jesus Christ, be involved in their community and be aware of others’ needs, and exercise leadership skills. The focus of the program is not the number of hours worked or the type of service that is done, it is the Biblical principle of helping others:

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms. | Peter 4:10

Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men. Ephesians 6:7

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Colossians 3:23-24

From our youngest students who may collect canned goods and nonperishable items for a local food pantry and animal shelters, to our middle school students who may volunteer in activities outside of school, it is important for our students to serve the larger community. Organizations such as *Feed My Starving Children Counts*.

Students are required to keep a log of their volunteer hours at church, school, or other organizations where they volunteer their time. Students in K through 5th Grade who have volunteered over 25 hours and students in Middle School who have volunteered over 50 hours of service during the school year will be recognized at the Honors Day Celebration. Two eighth grade students with the most community service hours will be recognized at graduation pending Philoptochos offers the award. Students who participate in Student Council and NJHS are required to have the minimum number of hours for the extra-curricular activity. See each service club for a respective number of minimum hours.

Minimum Requirements

K-2 = 3 hours

3-5 grades = 6 hours

6th-8th grades = 12 hours

Guidelines to follow:

- Is not performed for compensation.
- Is **active** in participation (being present does not count).
- Contributes to at least one person (not an immediate family member) in the greater community.
- Is done outside of scheduled class time (**before or after school**).
- Is done outside of worship time.
- **You may not count more than 10 hours for a single activity (festival, etc).**

When children volunteer, they receive many benefits from the experience. Not only are they helping someone, but they get exposure to social problems that will make them informed citizens as they grow up. They also benefit from working with adults in service that has a focus on helping others. Children that volunteer are more likely to grow up to be adults that volunteer.

