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Proposed Community Service Requirement

Graduation Requirement – 40 Hours

Hanover High School is committed to the benefits of a Community Service Graduation Requirement. Our Core Values and Beliefs Statement summarizes, “We believe that respect, compassion, and empathy promote a positive climate that fosters school spirit and unity.” Further our 21st Century Learning expectations require that HHS students act responsibly and are “active citizens who demonstrate an understanding of civic responsibility.” Therefore, community service is an opportunity for students to become active citizens by developing an appreciation for the responsibility we all have as citizens to contribute to the improvement of the communities in which we live. In doing so, students will also have the opportunity to enhance their personal growth, build self-esteem and develop their social skills. By making community service a graduation requirement, Hanover High School recognizes the need for all students to become active citizens.

Definition - Community Service is an action, performance, or a “hands on” activity by an individual or group without compensation, whose effort will directly benefit others. Participation or membership in an extra-curricular club or organization does not constitute community service (i.e., meetings or rehearsals). Taking part in a community service activity that is done by the extra-curricular club would count.

- Students would be required to do 10 hours of community service per year for a total of 40 hours. Students who transfer into HHS would be required to do 10 hours for each year they attend Hanover High School.
- Community service done as part of the Senior Humanities Project would count toward the 10 hour requirement.
- Community service done as part of the “Junior Community Service Day” in June would also count toward the requirement.
- Students will be given a list of suggested ideas to guide their decision making on what is an acceptable activity.
- We will create an electronic form in Aspen where students will keep track of their community service activities and hours through the family portal.
- It will be incorporated into the 2014-2015 Program of Studies for approval on February 26, 2014.
- Final decisions regarding what is and is not Community Service will be at the discretion of the administrative team.

“The Hanover High School Community provides a competitive and challenging curriculum specific to individual educational needs, empowering students to succeed in the academic, social, and civic arenas. We believe that respect, compassion, and empathy promote a positive climate that fosters school spirit and unity. Within a safe and secure environment, students develop academic and personal independence, self-motivation, artistic appreciation, creativity, social responsibility, and global awareness.”