

Dear Students and Parents,

August 3, 2020

I hope all of you are doing well and are healthy during these uncertain times.

Ms. Simonetti and I have been contemplating how as a Mercy community we could continue being of service to our community considering the constraints of shelter in place, social distancing and mask wearing for the upcoming school year.

This is what we propose for the whole student body as a way to help our community and our world during this difficult time. Our focus will be that students create an ongoing relationship with an elderly person/student/person on the margins during this time. Each student is to complete 22 hours of service this year following the suggestions listed below...

- helping your parents cook dinner [CORE hours]
- babysitting your little brother or sister while your parents work from home [CORE]
- walking an elderly neighbor's dog and/or watering their outside garden/plants [CORE]
- visiting with an elderly neighbor on the phone or in person while practicing social distancing and wearing a mask [CORE]
- Become a [pen pal](#) to an elderly person [this can be weekly, bi-weekly or monthly (CORE)]
- Adopt a street: take responsibility for a street by picking up trash and keeping it clean in your neighborhood or a park [encourage you to make this a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly effort (CORE)]
- Tutor through facetime/Zoom with a grade school student, cousin, family friend etc... [CORE]
- Sew masks and donate them to non-profit such St. Anthony's Dining Room [Supplemental hours]
- Educating yourself on a social justice/Critical Concern issue such as racism by watching a documentary, attending a zoom lecture/meeting [Learning hours]
- the opportunities are endless, if you are unsure of a specific opportunity please email me, pdiaz@mercyhsb.com

Here is also a [description of CORE](#), Learning (a bi weekly schedule of opportunities will be posted at the start of the school year) and Supplemental hours.

You are to log your hours into Seholo.com as usual. The requirement of 10 CORE, 2 Learning and 10 Supplemental hours should be followed as much as physically possible.

This yearly service requirement for all the student body is important now more than ever. We at Mercy truly believe to follow in the footsteps of Catherine McAuley we should be reaching out to those in need because now more than ever our community and world needs love and compassion. Let us be the light in these dark and uncertain times. Thank you for letting others know Mercy through their interactions with you and your good works of mercy.

May God bless you all,
Mr. Diaz