

Community Service Requirement

Upon entering Valley Christian High School, students commit to completing 25 hours of Community Service each year. The Community Service Requirement encourages students to serve, inspire, and motivate others, both locally and abroad. Through action and love, students seek to advance the Lord's Kingdom with the redemptive power of the Gospel to transform our communities and the world.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34-35)

Jesus lived His life in service to those in need, and it is our desire that our school community and individual students would follow this example. Our mission is to connect students with service opportunities in order to foster a lifestyle of service and a heart of compassion and love. Through the transformative relationships that inevitably develop, students learn to serve, inspire, and motivate others as well. At VCHS, we learn to reflect the tangible love of Christ.

Service opportunities will be placed on the Christian Service page as they are made available. If you have any questions about our Community Service program, please contact Mr. Galleher (tgalleher@vcs.net) for information about service opportunities.

Requirements and Grading

Each semester, Community Service hours make up 15% of a student's Bible grade. The weight assigned to Community Service is similar to that of a final exam in a non-Bible course.

	Hours Required	Type of Hours	Point Value	Due Date*
1st Semester	10 hours	General or Church**	10 points <i>1 point per hour completed</i>	The day before Thanksgiving Break*

IMPORTANT: All community service hours completed in the 1st semester will be counted AGAIN toward the 2nd semester total requirement.

	Hours Required	Type of Hours	Point Value	Due Date*
2nd Semester	10 hours	Church**	20 points <i>2 points per hour completed</i>	The day before Easter Break*
	15 hours	General or Church**	15 points <i>1 point per hour completed</i>	

* Due Date Details:

1. Hours must be submitted to [x2VOL](#) and verified by a supervisor by the VCHS deadline. If a student's supervisor has not verified their hours within 72 hours of the VCHS deadline, the student should reach out to their Bible teacher for help contacting the adult who supervised their service hours.
2. Teachers will accept late Community Service hours until the VCHS Deadline for Late Work each semester. **After the VCHS Deadline for Late Work, no additional hours completed will be calculated into the student's course grade for that semester.**

** Types of hours:

- o **General hours:** may be earned through VCS or a Non-profit 501 C3 Agency
- o **Church hours:** may be earned through a Christian church only. The purpose of the Church hour requirement is not simply to do things that a church would do but to partner with a local church in acknowledgment of Biblical teaching on the value of connection in the "body of Christ" (1 Corinthians 12:12-27).

x2VOL Submissions

VCHS uses the x2VOL system to track all Community Service hours. Community Service hours must be submitted and verified by a supervisor in x2VOL for a student to receive credit for those hours. Students will be trained in their Bible classes on how to use the x2VOL system. Any questions can be directed to your Bible teacher or to Mr. Galleher (tgalleher@vcs.net).

F A Q s a b o u t C o m m u n i t y S e r v i c e

- **How can I find Community Service opportunities?** Students can find organizations and churches with which they can volunteer on the [VCHS Christian Service page](#). For additional help, please reach out to your Bible teacher or Mr. Galleher (tgalleher@vcs.net). In general, hours may be earned through VCS, a Non-profit 501 C3 Agency, or a Christian church.
- **When can I earn my community service hours?** Community service hours for each school year can be earned during the summer months and during the school year until that school year's deadlines for community service. Hours earned over the summer may only be applied to the upcoming school year and may not be applied to the previous school year's requirement after the deadlines have passed.
- **Are there restrictions on the hours earned at VCS?** Students may earn non-church hours at VCS but may not earn church hours through VCS. There are many volunteer opportunities at VCS, including during summer camps. It is the student's responsibility to ask questions about what does and does not count for Community Service requirements before the date they are turned in. In general,

if a student is paid for their VCS work or if the volunteer work is completed during normal school hours, those hours are not eligible for VCHS community service hours. Typically, a student may not earn volunteer hours while participating in a non-volunteer event (e.g., a student may not earn volunteer hours for participating on a sports team, a student may not earn volunteer hours for participating in a club meeting or attending a club or program event, etc.).

- **How can I make sure a Community Service opportunity meets the requirements?** Students are encouraged to reach out to Mr. Galleher (tgalleher@vcs.net) for confirmation of acceptable hours instead of taking another student or teacher's word as final.
- **Can I earn partial credit?** Yes. Students will receive credit for each full hour of service completed through an approved organization and verified by a supervisor by the VCHS deadline.
- **Can I earn extra credit for completing more hours than are required?** No. VCHS does not assign extra credit in the Community Service grade category.
- **If I earn more than 25 hours in a single year can I get credit for the extra hours the following year?** No. Community service hours must be earned the summer prior to a given school year or during that school year (until the published deadlines).
- **What if I don't do my Community Service?** VCHS believes that serving the community is an essential part of following the teachings of Jesus, and the Community Service grade category is weighted at 15% to reflect this significance. Completing only some hours or failing to complete any hours will impact a student's Bible course grade for the semester.
- **What if I am unable to complete my required hours due to a medical hardship?** Students with medical hardships should reach out to their counselor to determine if an Academic Plan for Medical Reasons is needed.
- **What if VCS needs to use a Distance Learning format for an extended period of time and students are unable to complete community service?**
At this time, VCHS anticipates that local restrictions will not be imposed that would prevent students from completing their community service requirements. If VCS moves to distance learning for an extended period or in case of school-wide extenuating circumstances, VCHS will communicate appropriate modifications to all students.