PGCPS Student Service-Learning Information

- PGCPS Service-Learning Website **http://www.pgcps.org/ssl/**

- Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Service-Learning Website
  https://tinyurl.com/MSDESSLOpportunities

- **SSL activities can be done with nonprofit, for-profit, tax-exempt, private, and faith-based organizations/facilities.**

- **Students cannot be paid when they are participating in Service-Learning**

- Students are required to earn a **total of 75 hours** in Maryland.
  - **51 hours** are "infused" into the Science and Social Studies curricula for Grades 5-10 in PGCPS. See the chart below.
    - *To earn infused service-learning hours, students must:*
      1. *actively engage in all service activities in the class; and*
      2. *earn a letter grade of at least a "D."*

Curriculum-Infused Service-Learning

GRADE	DEPT.	COURSE NAME	HOURS
5	Science	Grade 5 Science	4
6	Science	Grade 6 Science	4
6	Social Studies	World Cultures and Geography I: The Western Hemisphere	4
7	Science	Grade 7 Science	4
7	Social Studies	World Cultures and Geography II: The Eastern Hemisphere	4
8	Science	Grade 8 Science	4
8	Social Studies	United States History I: The Revolution to Reconstruction	4
9	Social Studies	United States History II: Reconstruction to the Present	7
9	Science	Integrating the Sciences	7
10	Social Studies	Local, State, and National Government	9
			Total 51

  - **24 hours** are to be earned independently.
    Independent service-learning hours are service-learning hours that are independently earned at a community-based site that is chosen by the student.
    Students must complete 24 independent service-learning hours between Grades 6-12.
    See the chart below.

Independent Service-Learning

GRADE	EXPECTED HOURS
6	4
7	4
8	4
9	6
10	6
	Total 24

What are the steps for the students to earn "Independent" hours?

First: (PREPARATION) Consider what activity you want to do or what specific organization you want to work with.

Next: Check the M-NCPPC (Maryland -National Capital Park and Planning Commission) Volunteer Office for a list of sites.

Next: (ACTION) If the organization and activities are....

Pre-Approved Organization, Activities and Projects	Organizations, Projects and Activities that need Pre-Approval BEFORE service
Contact the organization and volunteer to serve.	Complete a **Service-Learning Site Approval Form** and submit it to your SSL Coordinator for approval **PRIOR TO BEGINNING** service. (The form is located on the PGCPS Student Service-Learning website.)
Participate in the SSL activity.	Upon receiving approval from the SSL Coordinator, participate in the SSL activity

Next: (REFLECTION) Complete a **SSL Verification Form** to document service performed in the summer or within each semester service is done. (The form is located on the PGCPS Student Service-Learning website.)

Last: Turn completed Verification Form into School-Based Service-Learning Coordinator by September 30 for summer service or by the end of each semester in which service is done for SSL hours to be reflected in SchoolMAX or on your official transcript.

If you need help, contact the School- Based Service-Learning Coordinator or Professional School Counselor at your school.

Independent Service-Learning hours *CAN ONLY* be conducted:
Before School Hours
After School Hours
Holidays
Weekends

Independent Service-Learning hours *CAN NOT* be conducted:
During School Hours

Examples of "Independent" Service-Learning Opportunities for Students

LIBRARIES: Many of the public libraries have programs designed to allow students to participate and earn service-learning hours.

DAY CARE FACILITIES: Students must be working directly with children to promote healthy child development. Acceptable activities may include reading to/with children, assisting with arts and crafts, supervising recreation time, completion of learning activities that provide school readiness, tutoring, etc…

TEACHER'S AIDE: Direct service for other students such as tutoring or creating educational displays or resources. Students may also work within the school office, library or with the school nurse provided the experience still meets the program guidelines.

SCHOOL OR COMMUNITY-BASED PERFORMANCE ACTIVITIES: If the group is voluntarily performing in public (e.g., community parade or event, performing at a senior citizen center during the holidays) then students can earn service-learning hours for their service.

WORKING FOR INDIVIDUALS: With appropriate preparation and reflection on the issue affecting your neighbor, this may be turned into a service-learning project. Students or parents should speak with the school service-learning coordinator to see if an activity could be developed into a quality service-learning experience.

Helpful Websites

Youth Service America	www.YSA.org
Do Something	www.dosomething.org
Community Service	https://www.nationalservice.gov/
Kidlink	www.Kidlink.org

Helping the Environment

Earth Force	www.Earthforce.org
Kids for a Clean Environment	www.Kidsface.org

Leadership

American Youth Foundation	www.ayf.com
Congressional Youth Leadership	http://orgs.tigweb.org/congressional-youth-leadership-council

Helping Children/Mentoring

Child Welfare League of America	www.cwla.org
Save the Children	www.SaveTheChildren.org
Stand for Children	www.Stand.org
National Mentoring Partnership	www.Mentoring.org

Helping the Homeless and the Hungry

Habitat for Humanity	www.Habitat.org
Second Harvest	www.SecondHarvest.org
Maryland Food Bank	http://www.mdfoodbank.org/site/pp.asp?c=ahKKI2PKIsE&b=218104
Meals on Wheels	https://www.mealsonwheelsmd.org/