

Community Service at J.M. Alexander

The middle school years are a critical time in the lives of adolescents—during these years students grow intellectually, socially, and emotionally. The faculty and staff at J.M.A are committed to the development of the WHOLE child, and one way we will do that this year is by engaging our students in community service.

This year, we want 100 percent of J.M.A scholars to participate in community service. Community service helps scholars become more aware of their place in the world and helps them see how they can have a positive impact on others.

We will help students get involved in service in a number of ways:

- After Labor Day, we will begin emailing parents regular bulletins announcing service opportunities in the community.
- We will provide opportunities for students to do service AT school by organizing before-school and during-school service projects.
- We will organize weekend and teacher-work-day service events.
- We will offer incentives for students who participate in service every quarter.

Students will record their service on a service log that can be found on-line or in the main office of the school. (IB Scholars may also use the Community Service booklets provided by the magnet office). They will turn in their logs four times a year:

- Fall Service Logs – Due to home base teacher the week of November 1st.
- Winter Service Logs – Due to home base teacher the week of January 17th.
- Spring Service Logs – Due to home base teacher the week of April 9th.
- End-of-year Service Logs – Due to home base teacher the week of May 1st.

INCENTIVES TO PARTICIPATE IN SERVICE

This year we will offer the following incentives for students who complete service:

- Fall Service Reward: All students who participate in community service between the beginning of the school year and November 1st will be invited to a Fall Service Celebration and will be entered into a drawing for prizes. To be eligible for the Fall Service Celebration, students must turn in their Fall hours the week of November 1st.
- Winter Service Reward: All students who participate in community service between November 1st and January 17th will be invited to a Winter Service Celebration and will be

entered into a drawing for prizes. To be eligible for the Winter Service Celebration, students must turn in their Winter hours the week of January 17th.

- Spring Service Reward: All students who participate in community service between January 17th and April 9th will be invited to a Spring Service Celebration and will be entered into a drawing for prizes. To be eligible for the Spring Service Celebration, students must turn in their Spring hours the week of April 9th.
- End-of-Year Service Celebration: At the end of the year, we will have a BIG celebration to recognize all students who went above and beyond with service in 2011-2012:
 - 6th graders who completed 20 or more hours of service by May 1st
 - 7th graders who completed 25 or more hours of service by May 1st
 - 8th graders who completed 30 or more hours of service by May 1st

To be eligible for the end-of-year service celebration, students must turn in their end-of-year hours the week of May 1st.

WHAT COUNTS AS SERVICE?

Community service hours may be earned by helping organizations or people other than immediate family. Some examples are:

- Volunteering at a local non-profit organization such as Loaves & Fishes, the Carolina Raptor Center, the Charlotte Humane Society, or the Crisis Assistance Ministry (to name just a few!)
- Participating in a fund-raising event for a charitable organization such as the Race for the Cure or the CROP Walk.
- Providing neighbors with free services such as babysitting, lawn care, dog-walking, plant-watering, etc.
- Participating in service activities with a Scout troop or your faith community.
- Organizing a canned food drive in your neighborhood.
- Doing a trash clean up in your neighborhood or a local park.
- Serving meals at a soup kitchen or at Room in the Inn.

Whenever you complete service, be sure to get a signature from a person who can verify your service. You will also need a parent signature to verify that your service hours are accurate.

If you have questions about community service, contact the IB Coordinator at mary.kendrick@cms.k12.nc.us.