

June 27, 2007

Dear Shorecrest Parent or Guardian:

Since 1993, Shorecrest High School has had a graduation requirement of sixty hours of community service and a reflection essay.

It's more than hours

Sophomore students are enrolled in English 10: Community. Through assignments that build on their community service experiences, students will interview agencies, sign a contract, write a résumé and request a letter of recommendation. Thoughtful service can also offer opportunities to gain employment, awards and scholarships. We suggest resisting convenience and using service to stretch oneself.

Choose meaningful service

In September, students are guided into service that fits their individual talents, career pathway, and areas of interest — along with the needs of their families. They are expected to select an off-campus, nonprofit organization. (Students can request an exception for special circumstances.) Students are then encouraged to show commitment, build a relationship beyond Shorecrest and relatives, and grow into a leadership position.

As the community service teacher, I act as a resource person for students and staff and provide community service classroom instruction in all English 10 classes. I assist students in securing service positions and monitor their progress. Our goal is to have all sophomores placed in service sites by the end of the first quarter. It is not necessary for you, as a parent, to secure a service site for your student.

Meet requirements

The community service requirement comprises 10% of the English 10 grade. In addition to written assignments, students are required to complete a minimum of 30 hours of community service during their sophomore year. The hours are considered homework and are completed during the following grading terms.

First Semester: 10 hours

Second Semester: completion of at least 30 hours for the year and a reflection essay

We encourage students to complete the 60-hour and reflection essay requirements during their sophomore year. Hours may be earned during the summer before their junior or senior year and until April of their senior year. However, hours earned during their freshman year do not apply toward the 60-hour requirement. Progress will be noted on transcripts and report cards.

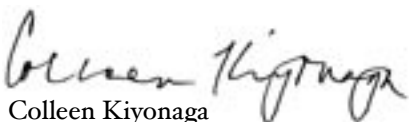
Look impressive

Thirty or more hours above the 60-hour requirement will be recorded on the student's official transcript. Remember: when job, college, and scholarship applications ask about community service, they are looking for commitment, leadership, and initiative.

More information can be found on our Community Service website. From the Shorecrest homepage, (<http://schools.shorelineschools.org/shorecrest>) click "Departments," then "Community Service."

I look forward to working with your student next year.

Sincerely,



Colleen Kiyonaga

Community Service/Senior Project Teacher and Coordinator