

Proposal for Community Service

Purpose:

The purpose of creating a community service requirement is to:

1. Instill a genuine need to want to help others
2. Bridge the gap between Union High School and the community
3. Instill a sense of school pride for the students of Union High School

Requirements:

All students will be required to complete 20 hours of community service beginning with the class of 2015. The upcoming juniors and seniors will be encouraged to participate in community service; it will not however be mandated. The sophomores and freshmen will have to fulfill the requirement in order to walk at their graduation ceremonies. The sophomores will have to complete a prorated amount of 15 hours to walk at graduation. The upcoming juniors and seniors' hours will be recorded as well. They will earn a graduation cord, or medal for their graduation if they meet the 20 hour requirement. Because the community service will be mandated for sophomores and freshmen, they will only earn a cord or medal at graduation if they exceed the 20 hours. We propose that these classes complete 50 hours of community service to be recognized at graduation.

Tracking:

All community service hours will be tracked on Genesis. Mr. Gibbons will delegate the position of Community Service Coordinator to one of the class advisors. The coordinator will track the students' progress throughout the year. The students' progress will also be printed on their report cards. This is the best way for students and parents alike to be aware of status of the community service hours earned.

Community Service Opportunities:

The coordinator will set up several school based events in which students can earn their service hours. This can be done per month or per marking period. For example, the coordinator might set up an opportunity for students to clean the grounds around the high school building to earn hours in September or work on putting together care packages for families who have experienced a loss due to a tragic event. The coordinator will advertise the opportunity in the bulletin, on the school

website, and over the PA system. The students will have to sign up with the coordinator prior to the event. The coordinator will create a sign in sheet with the names of the students who signed up. At the event, the students will have to sign next to their name in order to receive credit. The attached page is an example of the sign in sheet.

In addition, students will also be able to earn service hours through volunteering time with one of the Union High School clubs. The advisor will email the coordinator with the necessary information. Following the same protocol, the coordinator will advertise, have students sign up, and create a sign in sheet.

All of the community service opportunities will be orchestrated by the coordinator for the first year. The students will be encouraged to complete community service hours on their own. However, for organizational purposes, especially in the first year, the only hours that will count will be those orchestrated through the school and the coordinator.

Supervision:

All of the community service opportunities will be advertised to the faculty. Each class advisor will be required to attend one event but all teachers will be encouraged to participate. Attached is an example of how the events will be assigned to the advisors.

Transportation:

No transportation will be provided by the school district. All Community Service Projects will be school based, therefore no transportation will be provided by the school district.

Reflection:

After each event, Mr. Gibbons, the coordinator, and members of the student body will meet to discuss the outcome. They will make adjustments as necessary. Some needed changes may be required if there is not enough participation. If this occurs, the school may offer easier opportunities to earn hours. For example, the school might decide to run a canned food drive, where students earn one hour for every 10 cans they bring in. Or, give students an opportunity to go to a football game in Union colors to earn an hour of community service. Though this may seem like an easy out, it requires students to participate who may not have ordinarily done so.

