

# **Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy**

## **Fundraising Service Hours Obligation Frequently Asked Questions**

**All families with students in Nursery and Kindergarten to Grade 8 are obligated to perform service hours annually to support the Academy's fundraising efforts in order to help bridge the gap between the cost of education and the rates paid by families.**

### **What exactly is the service hour requirement?**

- All Families with a student in Full Day Nursery or Grades K-8 must provide 15 hours of service in support of Academy fundraisers during the Academic Year. The service requirement is reduced to 7 hours for those with a student in half- day Nursery program only. Families with students in the PreK program only are not required to perform service hours.

### **What is the purpose of the service hour requirement?**

- All money raised through fundraising helps to bridge the gap between the cost of educating a student (\$7,500) and the tuition rates charged. The annual budget for fundraising is \$250,000, which is about \$850 per family. Service hours help ensure successful fundraising efforts.

### **Why not simply charge a higher tuition and eliminate the service hour requirement?**

- The Board understands the sacrifices families make to provide a Catholic education and are striving to provide a high quality education at affordable rates. Families who prefer to pay more rather than give up their time have the option of paying \$50 per fundraising hour not performed. The cost is \$750 for the full 15 hours.

### **What options are available for those who are working full time to perform service hours?**

- Service hours are available throughout the Academic Year to enable people to volunteer around their busy schedules. There are many opportunities where you set your own hours and may even work from home for the Gala. There are also evening and weekend opportunities for the Gala, Fall and Spring Family Fun Festivals, Christmas Fair, and 300 Club. For those who work evenings, lunch duty could be the perfect opportunity to complete your service hour requirement.

### **Can I perform service hours if I do not have VIRTUS training?**

- Volunteers who are working with children must be VIRTUS trained. Thus, you must be VIRTUS trained to perform lunch duty. VIRTUS training is not required for most other fundraisers. The Academy does recommend that all families become VIRTUS trained since this is a simple process, free, never expires, and is required if you wish to participate as class captains, attend field trips, coach a CYO team, or work with children in any other capacity.

### **Do hours as a class captains or member of the AFA count towards my service requirement?**

- Class captains and AFA members receive credit for 5 service hours in return for their support of both the Gala and 300 club events.

### **Do hours attending a field trip count towards the service requirement?**

- No, hours on a field trip or other class activity do not count towards the service requirement. Field trips are enrichment experiences, but do not contribute towards the Academy fundraising efforts. As such, this time cannot count towards the service hour requirement.

### **How can I sign up to provide service?**

- The fundraising committee enters all fundraising service hour opportunities on Sign-Up Genius. If you wish to volunteer for a particular opportunity, you must sign up on Sign-Up Genius from the Home page of the Academy website.

### **Can I show up to provide service if my schedule allows at the last minute?**

- All volunteers must register on Sign-Up Genius to work on a fundraiser. If spots are filled, you may not just show up. If you are available sporadically for lunch duty please email [jsandoval@dwcaonline.org](mailto:jsandoval@dwcaonline.org) since she maintains a list of volunteers who are eligible to fill in at lunch duty. For other fundraisers, you may email [fundraising@dwcaonline.org](mailto:fundraising@dwcaonline.org) to inquire about last minute availability.

### **Is it possible to complete service hours through a single fundraiser?**

- Each fundraiser requires one or more chairpersons to ensure their success. If you are willing to function as a chairperson of an event you are guaranteed to complete your service hour requirement. If you are interested in chairing or co-chairing a particular fundraiser please email [fundraising@dwcaonline.org](mailto:fundraising@dwcaonline.org).

### **Can service hours be carried forward from one year to the next?**

- Service hours and/or the service hour commitment cannot be carried forward from one year to the next. For example, if you provide 20 hours of service in the current year you cannot carry 5 hours into next year. In addition, if you provide 10 hours in the current year you cannot carry the obligation for the remaining 5 hours into the next year.

### **Can I perform service hours for another family?**

- Each family is responsible for their own service hours. You may not provide service hours for other families.

### **Who is eligible to perform service hours?**

- Service hours are expected to be performed by the student's parents, step-parents, and/or guardians. Grandparents and/or aunts and uncles may perform service assuming they are physically able and have the VIRTUS training as required. Service hours may not be performed by students or their siblings, unless the sibling is at least 21 and prior approval is obtained.

**If you have further questions that are not addressed here, please feel free to email [fundraising@dwcaonline.org](mailto:fundraising@dwcaonline.org) and we will be happy to address your questions and/or concerns.**