

# NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM

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“... But made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant. . . .”Philippians 2:7

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## INTRODUCTION

To honor the mandate that all Maryland schools foster the development of service to others as a virtue in the lives of young people, New Life Christian School has instituted at the high school level a *service program* for all students. All graduates of NLCS must demonstrate their sensitivity to the needs of others and their willingness to contribute to their community in Christian love by meeting the real needs of those around them. They must fulfill a 100 hour service requirement during their four-year academic career at New Life, as volunteers in well-defined and measurable roles in their local Church and/or community. This brochure is designed to answer questions about the program.

### 1. The Requirement

- Students are to serve a minimum of 100 hours, after completing the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, but before graduation. Service hours will be prorated for students who enter NLCS after the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Each year, students in grades 9 – 12 are required to complete 25 hours of service. This must be completed by May 1 of the school year. Students will not be allowed to re-enroll for the following year until the requirement is satisfied.
- Only *pre-approved* service activities will count towards this requirement (though there will be a wide variety of service opportunities, only those structured to provide the necessary accountability will be considered).

- For the purpose of record-keeping, service rendered over the summer vacation will be included with the *next* school year's totals. Students may begin completing service hours for the next year after the last day of school for all students.
- Service hours will be recorded according to a schedule created by NLCS to balance activities which are time-specific with other types of service.
- No more than 25 hours will be credited for any student for any one school year.
- No more than 25 hours will be credited for any student for any one service program, project, missions trip, or activity.
- No service program or activity will be considered for which a student receives any kind of compensation – these must be purely volunteer activities.
- There will be no release time from regularly scheduled classes to fulfill the service requirement (other than special permission ordinarily granted to miss school for missions trips and special church activities).
- Service projects should be done outside the environment of N.L.C.S. We are emphasizing *out-placement* in the community. On occasion, exceptions to this rule may be granted for service that supports church ministries of NLCS or extensive school maintenance/repair projects over the summer.

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## 2. Fulfilling the Requirement

- Students will select service opportunities from a wide range of possibilities, including:
  - 1) Service in the local church
    - ~ teaching Sunday School
    - ~ leading worship
    - ~ outreach programs (jail ministry, nursing home visitation, other evangelism projects)
  - 2) Missions Trips
  - 3) Community service
    - ~ hospital volunteers
    - ~ rescue mission
    - ~ internships with local government
    - ~ humane society
- Students will experience the three stages in serving described in the Maryland State Department of Education bylaws:
  - 1) *Preparation* – a time of planning to serve; acquiring the skills and knowledge; making the commitment,
  - 2) *Action* – the “hands on” work of meeting the needs of other people,
  - 3) *Reflection* – evaluating the experience of serving others, and the impact on their life and one’s own life.

## 3. Accountability

- Students will perform their service under the supervision of someone recognized by NLCS as being in charge of their program or agency. This person will report on the student’s progress and time of service to the coordinator of the School Service Program at New Life.
- Hours of service, once verified, will be recorded in the student’s permanent file.