WHAT IS SERVICE-LEARNING?
Service-learning is a teaching method that combines meaningful service to the community with curriculum-based learning. Students improve their academic skills by applying what they learn in school to the real world; they then reflect on their experience to reinforce the link between their service and their learning. -- Learning in Deed

THE THREE ESSENTIAL STEPS OF SERVICE-LEARNING:

Preparation is the first step of service-learning in which students cooperate with teachers and community members to:
- Identify issues affecting the community
- Select project site and type of action: Direct, Indirect, or Advocacy
- Plan service-learning reflection
- Explore the concept of citizenship

Action is the next step of service-learning in which students carry out their service. Projects can take place in school or in the community. Service-learning experiences give meaning to academic lessons, such as addressing environmental issues.

Reflection is the final step of service-learning in which students look back upon the project and review what they have learned. Reflection may be done individually (journals, scrapbooks) or as a group (class evaluation of the project based on the goals and outcomes).

WHAT IS THE SERVICE-LEARNING REQUIREMENT?
All students receiving a Maryland high school diploma are required to complete 75 hours of service-learning (or a determined pro-rated amount for qualifying high school students) prior to graduation from high school.

HOW WILL BCPS STUDENTS MEET THE REQUIREMENT?
Students may begin earning service-learning hours the summer before they enter Grade 6. Students can earn hours through required curriculum projects in selected courses, school wide projects, or through independent service projects that address community needs. Each school has a service-learning coordinator that can assist students in this process.

HOW ARE HOURS EARNED IN CLASS?
Students earn hours for completing service projects that are a part of the required curriculum in the following courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Middle School</th>
<th>High School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies 6</td>
<td>Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health 6</td>
<td>Government (15 hrs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art 7</td>
<td>English 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science 8</td>
<td>Tech. Ed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tech. Ed. (Grades 6 and 7, where offered)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family and Consumer Sciences (Grades 7 or 8, where offered)</td>
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**All course projects are worth 10 service-learning hours unless otherwise noted

WHAT OTHER SERVICE-LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS?
In addition to class projects, all students may participate in independent projects that meet community needs. Most community projects are direct service, giving students the opportunity to interact with the population being served.

A resource directory is available on the BCPS web site to help students locate pre-approved service-learning opportunities.

Some examples of appropriate independent projects may include:
- Tutoring younger students
- Serving at a soup kitchen
- Participating in an organized environmental restoration project
- Working with children at a licensed day care
- Working with non-profit organizations to assist with fundraising events or marketing

CAN STUDENTS EARN AWARDS FOR PARTICIPATING IN SERVICE-LEARNING PROJECTS?
Baltimore County Public Schools honors students in Grades 8 and 12 through the annual meritorious service recognition awards. Students are identified and selected based on the number of service hours they have completed and documented. Students are recognized for their outstanding contributions to the school and/or community through school based award ceremonies each spring. Each school will extend an invitation to parents and family members to attend these ceremonies.
Maryland’s Seven Best Practices of Service-Learning

• Meet a Recognized Need in the Community
• Achieve Curricular Objectives through Service-Learning
• Reflect throughout Service-Learning Experience
• Develop Student Responsibility
• Establish Community Partnerships
• Plan Ahead for Service-Learning
• Equip Students with Knowledge and Skills Needed for Service

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact:

Baltimore County Public Schools
Student Support Services
Jefferson Building
105 West Chesapeake Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204

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