



Trinity-Byrnes

Collegiate School

Community Service

In addition to academic credits, students are expected to participate in school or community service, either individually or through membership in school-sponsored clubs or organizations.

Community service done outside of school sponsorship must be unpaid and through a *bona fide* charitable organization. Household chores, babysitting, helping neighbors, etc. are not considered acceptable service activities.

Promotion to the next grade requires the completion and documentation of a minimum of 15 hours of school and/or community service each year. A minimum of 5 of the 15 hours must be served outside of school. Likewise, continued membership in some organizations, such as the National Honor Society, requires additional service hours.

The inclusion of these community service activities in a student's college application portfolio is an important factor in admission decisions at many colleges and universities. **Students who fail to complete this requirement during the school year must do school service work in the summer and report cards/transcripts will be held until this requirement is satisfied.**

Membership in Honor Societies also carries an additional service requirement. It is our hope that by having nominal service requirements, our students will develop a commitment to community involvement and service. There's good evidence to support this concept.

The National Association of Independent Schools compiles a remarkable number of statistics on independent schools and other types of schools. Following are a couple of excerpts from one of the NAIS reports regarding graduates of independent schools:

They volunteer more. Private high school students are four times more likely than public high school students to have a community service requirement for graduation, according to "Private Schools: A Brief Portrait." "The Freshman Survey Trends Report," a survey of first-year college students that's conducted by the Higher Education Research Institute, found that 90 percent of independent school students had participated in volunteer work in the preceding year.

They're more likely to become involved as citizens. Both the "National Educational Longitudinal Study" and the "Freshman Survey Trends Report" showed that graduates of independent schools were more active in civic life as young adults. Whereas 57% of all the students who participated in the "National Educational Longitudinal Study" voted in a presidential election as young adults, 75% of participating students from independent schools did so. Independent school graduates were also nearly twice as likely to volunteer to work for a political campaign than the group of students as a whole.

Service

Students at Trinity-Byrnes Collegiate engage in service activities both as a requirement of graduation, and because it's just the 'TBCS way'.

Examples of student-led service activities may include:

- Annual Book Drive
- Harvest Hope Food Drive
- Operation Christmas Child
- Annual Winter Coat Drive
- Honor Societies service projects
- Halloween Carnival and Haunted Halls
- Tri-Hi-Y service projects
- Cancer Awareness visits to Palmetto Children's Hospital
- Rotary International Christmas shopping
- Cystic Fibrosis Festival of Lights
- Relay for Life
- Children's Miracle Network Radio-thon, with McLeod Regional Hospital
- Carolina Kids
- Help 4 Kids
- Manna House
- OM Ships Booksellers