

Dear Students,

Congratulations on having reached the conclusion of the 2017-18 academic year! I pray summer will be a restful time having fun with family, friends, and loved ones, as well as growing in your relationship with the Lord.

As we begin our time away, I know many of you anticipate completing a number of your Christian Service hours over the summer. I would like to take this opportunity to review some of our Christian Service requirements and guidelines. The requirements and guidelines may be found in their entirety within the Student Handbook and on the BVHS website at the following link:

<http://bvhs.org/sites/default/files/users/user29/Christian%20Service%20Guidelines%20and%20Requirements%2017-18.pdf>

Here are the “basic” requirements, as a reminder. Freshmen and Sophomores are required an annual total of 20 service hours (points) while Juniors and Seniors are required to complete 30 hours of service per academic year. Please note the requirement found under section “G” in the policy itself: “No student may earn more than 10 points from Bishop Verot Catholic High School.” We are amending this for the upcoming school year. From now on, the policy is no student may earn more than half of their point requirement from Bishop Verot Catholic High School. **This means freshman and sophomores may receive no more than 10 hours from BVHS service and juniors and seniors may receive no more than 15 hours from service at BVHS.** Also, please observe point “C” of the Requirements: “All service should be completed off of the pre-approved location list or approved by the Director of Campus Ministry before service is performed to ensure agreement exists regarding the nature of the service and the hours will be awarded as Christian Service.” Email is a fine way to seek approval, and I will be regularly checking my email all summer. The list of pre-approved sites can be found at the above link. Also note “During the summer, students are strongly encouraged to engage in Corporal Works of Mercy by working with the poor, the sick and dying, or persons otherwise in need.” Please take these policies into consideration when planning your summer services hours.

In regard to the submission of Service hours, beginning in the '18 -'19 school year, this will be done electronically over Canvas. You will receive a service assignment in your class year and will submit the hours forms in Canvas (Similar to the way you have submitted documents to Administration, such as the signed Handbook Page). Please remember that to receive credit for summer services hours, they must be submitted by **August 31**. It is our hope this new format will make submitting your hours much easier, as well as make the expectations and due dates clearer.

Finally, **if you are enrolled in a theology honors course, you will be asked to work on a multi-media presentation of your service projects as part of your second-semester grade.** So, if you wish to highlight some of your summer service experiences, be sure to take plenty of pictures and video over the summer, as well as perhaps taking time to reflect on what you are doing. Such clips, pictures, and reflections, would be invaluable when it comes time to submit your Service Project Assignment.

In serving others, especially the poor and venerable, we encounter Jesus himself who said “Truly, I say to you, as you did to one of the least of these my brethren, you did to me.” (Matthew 25:40). Above all, it is my prayer that in service we all indeed see the face of Christ and learn his spirit of generosity and kindness, which is a hallmark of what it means to be a student at Bishop Verot. If you have any questions, or if I can be of help in any way to you over the summer, even just to talk, please know I am here if you need to reach me.

Fr. Casey Jones