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The Diakonia Program

Christian Service in the Image of Christ

“Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

-Matthew 25:40

All of us are called to serve. We are called to this life of service by Jesus Christ Himself. Pope Francis constantly challenged each of us to respond to the love Christ has for us by sharing that love in our families, Church, and communities through service and prayer. At St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School we strive to live this Christian vocation by “forming servant leaders in the Image of Christ”. One way in which we answer this call to give of ourselves is through our Diakonia program. Diakonia is a Greek word found more than 30 times in the New Testament. It is translated as “service” or “ministry” and it captures the Christian notion of service for the least of our brothers and sisters and to our local community, to which we are all called as followers of Christ.

The life of a Christian is one of loving service to those in need. The Diakonia Program of St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School is an opportunity to explore the many service and ministry opportunities of the Church and the wider community outside one's normal circle of friends, family, and neighborhood. The program consists both of loving action and prayerful reflection.

IMPORTANT COMPONENTS OF THE DIAKONIA PROGRAM

† The Spirituality of Service

Diakonia is the freely offered gift of one's time, talents and personality to meet a need in society. We can be Christ for others in many ways. While some of the agencies where we carry out our ministry are not “Church-related”, we consider the student's contribution to be “Diakonia” in that our faith is the motivation, prayer is the source of our strength, and to serve as Jesus did is our goal.

† An Opportunity to Learn

Diakonia is an opportunity to learn and grow in a unique way. Through Christian service, students may discover their personal gifts, values, limitations, and dreams for the future. Students will learn about people and have their eyes opened to the problems and challenges in our community in ways which cannot be experienced in a classroom.

† Service Using Individual Gifts

Students have particular interests as well as gifts and talents. In order to be a servant leader according to the call God is giving, a person should examine his/her own gifts and interests. Listen to the Holy Spirit. It is often better to find something that will be difficult or challenging, but that is interesting. The easy sites and projects aren't necessarily the most fun or rewarding. When one stretches beyond one's “comfort zone”, the rewards are often greater.

† Reflection Process

Each year you will write a Reflection Paper that will be assigned and graded in your Theology class. This paper must be completed two weeks after service hours are due. In addition, the senior level Theology Catholic Social Teaching course and the Senior Service Project offer other opportunities to reflect and expand on one's experiences in the Diakonia program.



Forming Servant Leaders in the Image of Christ



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PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Diakonia hours are a graduation requirement. During the Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior years, each student is required to have a total of 20 hours of service. The current Junior and Senior class requirement is 15 hours. **All service must be for a non-profit organization and must meet a need in society.**

† Start Date for Ministry

Students may begin their Diakonia service as soon as they are high school students at St. Dominic Savio. Therefore, service may begin as early as the first day of June the summer before a student's freshman year.

For transfer students, hours begin the first day of June before the beginning of the school year, or, for transfers in the middle of the school year, Diakonia hours start counting the day the student enrolls at St. Dominic Savio.

† Hour Requirements

Freshmen and Sophomores must complete 20 hours each academic year. The requirement for the current Junior class is 15 hours. These hours must be logged into MobileServe by the third Friday in April. Hours entered during the summer will count towards the next year's requirements.

Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors have two categories for their required 20 hours:

1. Service to Others:
At least 10 of the required 20 hours must come from service that benefits the "larger society" (outside the Savio community). This would include service that comes from volunteering time to meet needs in local communities, churches, and/or the worldwide community. All service must be for a non-profit organization and must meet a need in society. See "criteria for Diakonia projects" below for more information.
2. Service to Savio:
Up to 10 of the required 20 hours may come from service performed at Savio or for the benefit of Savio groups and clubs (the Savio community).

Seniors' Diakonia requirement is fulfilled through their participation and completion of the Senior Servant Leader Project. More information on the Senior Servant Leader Project can be found [here](#).

† 200 Club

Students are encouraged to give of their time generously in response to the God who loves us gratuitously. Hours above and beyond either of a student's required goals may be logged toward the optional "200 Club" goal.

Graduating Seniors who serve for 200 hours beyond the Diakonia requirement and log these hours within the 200 club goal will receive recognition at the Academic Award Ceremony at the end of the school year. The students' names are then listed on a plaque near the front entrance of the school, reminding all current students of the legacy of service that our alumni have established.

† Logging Hours - MobileServe

St. Dominic Savio uses an online service tracking tool called [MobileServe](#) to record and track service hours. Freshman students will log into MobileServe and receive more information about the Diakonia program within the first few weeks of school in their Theology class.

How to create an account on MobileServe: You can download the app directly from the App Store or Google Play. You can also access the web app from any Internet connected device at: app.mobileserve.org. To create a new profile:



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1. Click the “Sign Up” button on the “Login” Screen.
2. Enter your name, Savio email address, and create a password.
3. Affiliate with your organization via the org code below:
Class of 2026 - EB0ACA
Class of 2027 - EEC019
Class of 2028 - 18AC40
Class of 2029 - 8247F3
4. Start logging hours!

† Consequences for Incomplete Hours

As stated above, the third Friday in April is the due date for the annual quota of hours for each student. Students will be given a reminder of this date in the Spring Semester in Theology class.

Because Diakonia hours are a graduation requirement and meant to be attained each year, a student deficient in required hours for the year has not met requirements to advance to the following grade level. Therefore, they cannot be scheduled for classes for the following school year until the deficiency is remedied.

CRITERIA FOR DIAKONIA PROJECTS*

You have many options in selecting service projects to submit for Diakonia program hours. You may find a non-profit agency on your own or serve an agency listed in MobileServe if it meets the following criteria:

1. SERVICE TO OR WITH PEOPLE

We ask that the majority of your service involve working directly with people, serving as Christ did. While there may be a few occasions where you will indirectly help others through other means (office work, packing food, cleaning), we require that the majority of your hours come from direct service to or with others.

2. VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Diakonia is a contribution of your time and talents in a volunteer capacity. **This is work that is not for payment and outside of the service we already freely give to family, friends, and neighbors.** Whereas it is a requirement of St. Dominic Savio for a student to have the prescribed number of hours in order to graduate, the agency the student chooses, the hours worked, etc. are of the student's choosing. **However, the agency must be non-profit and the hours the students work must assist in addressing a recognized need in society.**

3. SUPERVISOR PRESENCE

An adult who is not your parent must be available at your service site to supervise and validate your service. The supervisor should also be available to provide training, support, and assistance. Due to liabilities, all ministry work **MUST** be with an adult supervisor. Supervisors will be required to validate hours in MobileServe and so must have a working email address.

4. VARIETY OF SERVICE

You are encouraged to choose your service opportunities each year, with the understanding that you must serve a variety of populations during your four years at Savio. For example, a student may only use his/her time teaching Vacation Bible School or RE for one of their annual requirements. As the hands and feet of Christ on earth, we are striving to provide a wide array of experiences for our students. You may continue to log these hours into MobileServe (and are encouraged to!) but they cannot count toward the 20 minimum required hours for that school year.



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5. SERVICE AGENCIES

You are highly encouraged to minister through your church or parish. Contact someone on the staff about ministry opportunities (Pastor, Youth Minister, DRE, Liturgical Ministry Coordinator, Social Ministries Director, etc.).

In addition, there are many other non-profit agencies and organizations in need of support. If you have any questions about an agency or organization see your theology teacher, Mrs. Heyl, or a student in Christian Outreach! Christian Outreach plans service opportunities that occur throughout the year such as Feed My People, Adopt-A-Highway Cleanups, Annie's Way Thanksgiving Meal, Blood Drives, etc.

COMMON QUESTIONS REGARDING THE DIAKONIA PROGRAM

† What is not included in my service hours?

- Initial interviews, transportation to the ministry site, lunch breaks, dinner breaks and hours being served due to disciplinary action do NOT count towards one's required service hours.
- Babysitting (unless for a parish in a group child care setting with supervision and is not paid) and work for family, friends, or neighbors, does not count.
- Donations of goods do not count, regardless of the donations site's policy.
- Work done in one's home, or the home of any relative, even with parental and/or adult supervision, cannot be counted. All service must be for a non-profit organization and must meet a need in society.
- Using hours done to complete another program's requirements is also not allowed. A student may have service requirements for other groups or programs besides those that are required for St. Dominic Savio, such as Confirmation preparation, the Eagle Scout Award, NHS, etc. These hours are the benefit of those programs, and are not counted as valid hours in the Diakonia Program.

† How are hours counted for ministry during Mass and Sunday services?

Liturgical ministry is greatly encouraged. Keep a record of all masses in which you participate as an altar server, lector, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, choir member, etc. Altar servers and choir members receive a full hour for each Mass. Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will receive ¼ hour for each Mass. Trainings or rehearsals for liturgical ministries do not count for Diakonia Hours.

Due to the Variety of Service requirement, hours served in a particular liturgical service can only count toward the Diakonia Program requirements for one year.

† Can Savio student managers or athletic trainers on athletic teams count any of their work for hours?

Yes, student managers and athletic trainers can log their hours per season for their work if they are not receiving Savio class credit or payment of any kind. All these hours must be documented, keeping in mind that time in transit and breaks are not counted. All hours will be considered "Service to Savio" and so only 5 may be applied to a student's required goals; the remainder may be logged and applied to the 200 Club.

