

Dear 7th grade families,

2016-17 will mark the 9th year of the Service Program at St. Francis Xavier, and the 7th annual All School Service Day. A third component that has been added to our program is the 8th Grade Service Project. The main goal of this project is for students to engage in a service opportunity that interests them. They will then draw from this experience to create a project during the first semester of their 8th grade year (more specific details will follow upon returning to school next year). **Your student will receive more details in the fall regarding the scope of the project and due dates including the date by which their service work for the project must be completed. However, we are letting you know about this project now because any service your student engages in over the summer can be used as a basis for their project.** While you can certainly revisit favorite organizations, we hope that you might use this opportunity to get involved with new types of service. A list of potential organizations and opportunities is attached. Any service done through the All Parish Service Day can also be used for this project (outings with openings were recently listed in the School Bulletin). Attached please also find a form for your student to fill out should they decide to complete their service this summer. This form will allow them to jot down key facts and observations that they can revisit when completing their service project next year.

Thank you in advance for your support of this project.

Sincerely,

The 8th Grade Teachers and 8th Grade Service Coordinators

8th Grade Service Project Q & A

Where can I get ideas for where to complete my service?

A list of ideas is attached and you can also take part in the SFX Parish Service Day. These are just a starting point – feel free to find additional organizations to partner with if you'd like.

What types of service experiences “count” towards this project?

This should be decided between you and your parents, based on which service theme you'd like to focus on. It should be something meaningful to you that will lend itself to creating a project and presentation based on the experience you have.

How long do I have to volunteer for an organization in order for it to count towards my project?

There is no minimum or maximum amount of time you have to spend volunteering – every experience will be different. Focus instead on having a meaningful experience and making the most of your time helping others.

Can I conduct a collection for an organization?

Students are encouraged to DO something rather than collect something; however, if you are compelled to collect items for an organization as part of your service experience, that is allowed. Please note: NO ITEMS can be collected through school or stored at school. In addition, you will not be allowed to sell items at school to collect money for an organization.

Can I complete my service experience with friends?

Yes. If a group of classmates chooses the same theme and wants to do the same activity that is fine. However, each student will do his / her own project and presentation next fall.