

Dear Rising Sophomore Parents,

The Mission and Ministry Department is excited to announce that we have restructured the Christian service hour requirements and programming. Starting the 2024–25 school year, sophomores will be required to complete 25 service hours.

Twenty (20) of your student’s hours must be direct service to people in need through a **worshipping community** related to their sophomore year religion curriculum, “Jesus and Church.” If your child is not active in a particular faith community, we encourage them to 1) join one or 2) partner with a friend who is active in his/her worship community. Their supervisor must be someone other than a relative. This facet of the service requirement reflects no change from our previous requirement.

We are introducing **SJC Flex Hours**. This will be the remaining 5 of the 25 required hours. The flex hours are simply that—flexible. Student feedback indicates that students would like to build community with their peers in service to others. This means that students will be able to complete their flex hours either at their curricular service site **OR** with or at St. John’s. We know there will be several questions about what counts as flex hours, and we promise to explain in full detail at the beginning of the school year. Our plan is to make obtaining these hours at St. John’s as feasible as possible.

Shortly, your student will be receiving this message and their Summer Christian Service Agreement to start their service hours and/or complete them over the summer. We always encourage students to utilize the summer to complete their service requirement.

Finally, for the 2024–25 school year, we look forward to partnering with MobileServe, an online platform that “makes tracking and verifying service hours easy, so no more paper check-ins, trying to remember dates and hours, or compiling group information—which means you have more time, better records, and less frustration.” This platform will not be ready for summer service hours.

The Mission and Ministry team looks forward to working with you and your child as, together, we bring the face of Christ to the local DMV area as inspired by our Lasallian, Catholic values!

Year	Curricular Requirement	SJC Flex Hours	Total Hours
Sophomores	20 hours direct service at a worshipping community	Complete 5 additional hours at curricular service site OR complete at/or with St. John’s	25

SJC Flex Hours: More information about flex hours will be shared at the beginning of the 2024–25 academic year. These flex hours will provide more opportunities to serve with and for our Cadet community!

St. John’s sponsored Christian service immersion trips: Applications for these trips are required and are available before Christmas break. These trips are counted as 40 hours.

Extracurricular Hours: These are hours that are “extra” in one of two ways:

- If you go over the required number of hours assigned for your year and/or
- Any service done outside of the curricular requirement or SJC Flex Hours, such as working with animals.

Students must complete an Extracurricular Service Form and submit it to Mission and Ministry. These hours are unlimited and will appear on their transcript.