

Community Service at ACHS

Goal: The goal of community service at ACHS is to prepare students to become actively involved citizens of the 21st century. Students who are actively involved in community service are more likely to take an active role in helping to solve the problems of society and give back to their community in the future. **All ACHS students are required to complete 40 hours of community service as a requirement for graduation.**

Initiatives:

- Community Service Club: Students participate in various community service initiatives that include food and coat drives, trips to nearby food banks, a book sale and exchange, and participation in various walks to increase awareness of service organizations. The club meets once a month and an estimated number of hours generated per actively involved club member are 15-20 hours a school year.
- Service Learning in the classroom: teachers are encouraged to implement service learning in their individual classrooms to include project based learning, and collaboration while assisting the students to learn the benefits of providing service to the community.
- Community Service Coordinator's: main responsibilities include identifying community service organizations and opportunities, working with guidance and administration to implement strategies, provide community service hours through the Community Service Club, maintain an updated list of community service organizations, and work with Advisory Director to develop several community service activities through specific grade levels during Advisory time.
- Tracking community service: community service is tracked with an individual community service documentation log. Completed hours are to be documented on student transcripts. Guidance and the Community Service Coordinator's work together to inform all students of this requirement, and remind seniors that they cannot graduate without the 40 hours.
- Communication: All students are informed yearly of this obligation. A listing community service organizations with hyperlinks is posted on the ACHS website. Several letters a year are sent home to parents of seniors reminding them of the 40-hour requirement. Students and parents are informed through other venues: Family Gathering Night and Report Card Distribution Night.
- Community Relations: local community service organizations are invited to set up information at Family Gathering Night. A parent liaison between the ACHS high school community and Roselle will be working with the Community Service Coordinator's to develop community service opportunities within the community.

"Give the pupils something to do, not something to learn; and if the doing is of such a nature as to demand thinking; learning naturally results."

-John Dewey