

August 2009

Dear Students/Parents,

This is to inform you of Blind Brook High School's Community Service requirements and opportunities.

Starting with the Class of 2003, 80 hours of community service are required prior to graduation. There is a 20-hour minimum for the ninth grade. The remaining hours can be front loaded or done throughout your high school career. Failure to complete the 20 hours in ninth grade will result in a penalty notification on your transcript. The year ends on July 31<sup>st</sup>. All 80 hours must be completed no later than June 15<sup>th</sup> of your senior year.

There are four categories of community service opportunities: the Community Service Club, the Blind Brook Soup Kitchen, in-house opportunities and off-campus opportunities.

### **The Soup Kitchen**

The Soup Kitchen involves students providing meals for the homeless on Thursday evenings with the help of several adult volunteers. Only a small number of students can help each week. Therefore it is mandatory to sign up in advance. If you come to the Soup Kitchen and did not sign up in advance, you will be turned away. The Soup Kitchen operates only while school is in session.

### **In-house Opportunities**

PTA functions, peer tutoring, office assistant work and assisting teachers comprise this category. Many students need extra help during free periods, activity period or after school. Students may also be able to teach an after-school activity at the Bruno M. Ponterio/Ridge Street School. The website and community service bulletin board list available opportunities.

### **Off-Campus Opportunities**

There is an endless list of organizations that would benefit from the efforts of young adult volunteers. There are several other soup kitchens in the area that operate on different evenings and on weekends. Some students have participated in repairing houses for Habitat for Humanities and Americares. Opportunities are listed on our website and are posted on our community service bulletin board. We are also open to suggestions and ideas. If a student has an opportunity to participate in community service in an area that is not listed on our community service board to web site, it must be pre-approved by the student's community service advisor.

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We are here to help you fulfill your requirements by participating in an activity you enjoy. If you need guidance finding an area that suits your interests, please feel free to talk to us. Involvement in sports, school plays, band, chorus or other extracurricular activities do not fulfill required community service hours.

The community service programs, opportunities, requirements and information can be viewed online at our website [bbhscommunityservice.com](http://bbhscommunityservice.com). We also post upcoming events in designated areas around the school. We also post upcoming events on the community service bulletin board across from room H201.

We are looking forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Jane Romm  
Co-Community Service Facilitator

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