

Middle School Summer Service/ELA Reflection

St. Francis Xavier School is a Catholic faith and academic community serving the students and families of St. Francis Xavier parish and surrounding communities. We strive to develop God's gifts in our students, faculty, and others, working in cooperation and mutual respect with humility and compassion. We live the teachings of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and His Holy Catholic Church, demonstrating our faith in action through our care for and service to one another.

Name: _____

Grade: _____

“FAITH in action is LOVE, and LOVE in action is SERVICE.” ~St. Teresa of Calcutta



- **Commit to at least one meaningful act of service during the summer...**not a set number of hours, but you will need to make it meaningful.

(see below for some ideas)

- **Type a 5 paragraph reflection** (see reverse for outline) on the service you chose to do this summer and how it is a reflection of the mission statement of St. Francis Xavier School (above).

What type of service can you do?

Below are a few ideas. Just be sure that whatever you choose to make, create, or do is benefiting a worthy cause and is a genuine act of service. Feel free to go volunteer with a friend! Also, feel free to be creative with your service!

1. Volunteer at an agency (or agencies)

- This includes churches (or agencies/charities associated with a church/ your parish), nonprofits (such as Gifts to Give, My Brother's Keeper, or similar organizations), food pantries, animal shelters, nursing homes, libraries, etc.
- Identify a cause or something that you are interested in, do your research, and find a place that allows middle schoolers to volunteer their time!

2. Use one of your gifts and talents for the benefit of others

- Perhaps you have a specific, unique talent like sewing, crafting, art, cooking, etc. (example: make paintings for a nursing home, clothing that you make for a women and children's shelter, meals for elderly neighbors or a mother who just gave birth, singing performances at nursing homes, etc.)
- Use your talent to brighten and enrich the lives of others. Be creative.

3. Altar serving and serving as a Sacristan can count too...as long as it is reflective in nature!

Summer Service reflection outline:

Please use each of the bullet points below to guide your thoughts for each of the 5 paragraphs in your reflection. (Double-spaced, Arial or Times New Roman, 12 point font. You will be graded on grammar, spelling, and organization of your writing.)

Create a cover page with your name, grade, and a creative title. (Encouraged but not required: make it colorful/artistic in design, or use a picture of you completing your service experience on it.)

- Introduce your chosen act of service: What was it? Where did you serve, how often, and who was the main recipient of your service? Why did you choose it for your summer service?
- Reflect on your service: What was easy? What did you find challenging? What did your service experience help you to learn about yourself, and the needs in our world?
- How will/can you try to continue this type of service throughout the school year? What type of sacrifices would that require?
- Scripture tells us that we are ***called to serve others***. Reflect on how your summer service helped you to live our school mission statement to “live the teachings of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and His Holy Catholic Church, demonstrating our faith in action through our care for and service to one another.”
- Based on the lessons you have learned from your summer service, how will you apply this attitude of service to your interactions with your classmates, peers, and family in the year to come.