



August 6, 2007

Dear Middle School Student, Parent and/or Guardian:

Service learning is required of all students earning diplomas in the state of Maryland. In the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), students may earn Student Service Learning (SSL) hours in specific middle school courses.

Through service learning activities in Grade 6 Science, Grade 7 English, and Grade 8 Social Studies, needs in the community are explored. There are opportunities to solve problems collectively, practice responsible citizenship, and explore careers. Full participation in the SSL activities and successful completion of each course, results in 10 SSL hours reflected on the final report card at each grade level. These SSL hours provide a foundation for other service and learning opportunities throughout middle and high school years. Students are required to complete a total 75 hours of service learning for graduation.

Progress toward meeting this diploma requirement is reflected on each report card. Further information about the SSL requirement is available through the school SSL coordinator. MCPS supports all students, parents, and teachers as they invest time and interest in service learning activities.

Sincerely,

Erick J. Lang

Associate Superintendent for
Curriculum and Instructional Programs

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