

The Office of Campus Ministry

“Dear young people, let yourselves be taken over by the light of Christ, and spread that light wherever you are.” - Pope John Paul II

The purpose of Campus Ministry at Pope John Paul II High School is to bring students closer to God through prayer, service, and faith development. The office of Campus Ministry strives to provide students with opportunities to learn more about their faith through interactions with their classmates, teachers, faith leaders, and the wider community. The holistic student will be able to utilize the Campus Ministry office to build a greater relationship with God that complements their academic and extracurricular activities. Ultimately, service and faith are at the heart of the Gospel message and Pope John Paul II’s mission; as such they are necessary for the development of young men and women of character. The Office of Campus Ministry is here to foster the growth of servant leadership and faith among all students, no matter the student’s individual background or future vocation.

Class Retreats:

Retreats are a fundamental aspect of the student experience at Pope John Paul II High School. They are designed to meet the diverse developmental and faith needs of our students. The freshmen, sophomore, and junior classes participate in one required retreat during the school year, which take place off campus over the course of a regular school day, and are centered around a common theme. The senior class participates in a required overnight retreat that takes place on campus as a culmination of their previous formative retreat experiences and functions as preparation for living as men and women of faith in the world. Along with class retreats, students will participate in a day of service retreat each year.

These days are meant to provide our students with a necessary “pause” from the demands of their school day, and allow them to enter more deeply into a relationship with God and their classmates in an engaging and reflective manner. Retreats also offer a way for our students to engage in leadership and community building throughout the course of the retreat. Faculty are also actively involved in each retreat day and provide positive examples of servant leadership to our students, in addition to their commitment and time in the classroom. The importance of these retreat days cannot be understated, as they create their bonds that tie our community together as one Body in Christ, as brothers and sisters sent out to share the message of the Gospel to all.

Retreat Themes by Year:

Freshmen: “Our encounter with Christ...sets us on the right path.” - St. John Paul II

Focus on Foundations

Sophomores: “Each one of us belongs to a great family...” - St. John Paul II

Focus on Community

Juniors: “Be generous...in the service of your brothers and sisters.” - St. John Paul II

Focus on Servant Leadership

Seniors: “The future is in your heart and in your hands.” - St. John Paul II

Focus on Discipleship

Prayer:

There are multiple opportunities available for students to participate in an active prayer life at Pope John Paul II High School. All students attend Mass once a week as a celebration of our community, united in the Spirit as One Body in Christ. Daily Mass is available in the chapel for all who would like to celebrate the liturgy. An on site Chaplain is present to meet any spiritual needs, including daily Confession and Adoration. Students also have the option to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation twice a year, during the Advent and Lenten liturgical seasons. As these Sacraments are tangible expressions of God's grace in our life, it is pivotal for our school community that we provide the ability to receive the Sacraments as often as possible.

Service:

To love and to serve others is the core of Christian community and fellowship. "Just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve" (Mt 20:28), so too are we called to fulfill our duty of loving both God and neighbor by practicing the works of mercy and cultivating responsibility to care for those around us, especially those in greatest need. The goal of the service program is to provide students with the experiences and tools to become other-oriented in a world that is increasingly more self-oriented; by doing so, each student can become more like Christ who is the ultimate model of love and self-giving. Knowing that Pope John Paul II High School does not exist in a bubble, it is of utmost importance to engage with the greater Nashville community through acts of love and service.

The Campus Ministry office exists in part to provide the school community with opportunities to practice service ministry throughout the year. These opportunities serve to educate students about the social injustices and disparities which exist in our community, challenge our students to grow in relationship and solidarity with people who are in great need, and respond to God's call of self-giving love.

To cultivate each student as a minister of Christ, all students must complete a service requirement every school year. Each grade level is required to do a minimum of 5 hours of service at a pre-approved non-profit organization; ideally this organization aligns with the service theme for the students' grade. The remainder of the required hours may be completed at a non-profit organization, church, or in service to Pope John Paul II High School (outside of the normal school day hours). The purpose of focusing on a service theme for each grade is to foster a culture of discussion and reflection so that service learning is not an isolated event for each student; rather, the shared experience works to provide a foundation in class for students to share their experiences and discuss them in larger context. By the end of 4 years, each student graduate with at least 4 different service experiences that broaden the scope of material and spiritual poverty to the JP II graduate.

To summarize:

1. **Five hours** of every year's service requirement must be completed at a pre-approved non-profit that ideally aligns with the service theme of the student's grade level.
2. All other hours must be completed at a **pre-approved** non-profit organization, church, or in service to Pope John Paul II High School (outside of the regular school day).
3. To **guarantee that hours will be approved**, students with questions about service **must** speak to the Service Coordinator before undertaking the service.

	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
Retreat Theme	Foundations	Community	Servant Leader	Discipleship
Service Requirements and Theme	15 hours <i>5 hours</i> must come from a pre-approved non-profit organization Feed the hungry	20 hours <i>5 hours</i> must come from a pre-approved non-profit organization Give drink to the thirsty	25 hours <i>5 hours</i> must come from a pre-approved non-profit organization Shelter the homeless	25 hours <i>5 hours</i> must come from a pre-approved non-profit organization Visit the sick and elderly

**See below for an approved list of non-profit organizations in the area.*

*"Darkness can only be scattered by light; hatred can only be conquered by love".
- Pope John Paul II*

Avalon Hospice
Belvedere Commons
Bethesda Center

Bridge Ministry
Warehouse
Brookdale Gallatin
Brookdale Goodlettsville

Brookdale Hendersonville
Buddy Ball Special Needs
Athletic Club of Clarksville
ByFaith Farm

Catholic Charities -
Second Harvest Food
Truck
Children Are People
Children's Jail Ministry of
Gallatin
Christian Manor
Christian Women's Job
Corps
Clare Bridge Cottage
Cottage Cove Urban
Ministries
Dismas House
Dogwood Bend Assisted
Living Center
Elmcroft of Hendersonville
Elmcroft of Lebanon
Emeritus at Main Street
Emeritus of Gallatin
Fieldstone Place
Gallatin Tower/Christian
Towers
Gigi's Playhouse
Good Neighbor Mission
and Crisis Center
Goodlettsville Help Center
Grace Church of the
Nazarene Urban Garden
Grace Church of the
Nazarene - City of Refuge
Grace House
Habitat for Humanity -
RESTORE
Hands on Nashville
Hearth at Hendersonville
Hendersonville Samaritan
Center
Hillcrest Healthcare Center
Hope Center Thrift Store
Institute for Social
Responsibility and
Citizenship through WKU
Jason Foundation
Joelton Hope Center

Life Care Center of Old
Hickory Village
Literacy Center of Middle
TN
Loaves and Fishes
Nashville
LP Pencil Foundation
Manna Cafe
Mary, Queen of Angels
Maybelle Carter
McKendree Village
Mount Juliet Help Center
Nashville Dolphins
Nashville Food Project
Nashville Rescue Mission
Nations Ministry Center for
Refugees
New Beginnings
Therapeutic Riding
New Spring Thrift Store
Nhc Healthcare Center
Nhc Healthcare Center of
Springfield
Paradise Ranch
Portland CARES
Project C.U.R.E.
Religious Education @
OLOL
Room in the Inn - Campus
for Human Development
Safe Haven Family Shelter
Salvation Army Nashville
Salvus Center of Gallatin
Salvus Center of
Hendersonville
Second Harvest Food
Bank
Shalom Zone of Gallatin
Shower the People
Sign Club of
Hendersonville
Smithson-Craighead
Academy
Southern Starrs

St. Luke's Community
House
St. Vincent de Paul
Sterling House of
Clarksville
Sterling House of
Goodlettsville
Sumner County Food
Bank
Thriftsmart Thrift School
VFW Food Bank
Youth Life Learning Center

****Other non-profits
chosen must align with
values of the Catholic
Church and be pre-
approved by the Service
Coordinator.***