

Service Learning Purpose & Expectations

Service Learning Purpose

The National Youth Leadership Council describes service learning as “an approach to teaching and learning in which students use academic knowledge and skills to address genuine community needs.” SL is a way of integrating “meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.”

BHHS Service Learning is not a general community service or fundraising class.

SL students coordinate, plan, create, and work together and with others to improve communities, big and small.

Service Learning students themselves will learn in real-world contexts, experience true community engagement, and help community partners meet significant needs.

SL students will strengthen skills of evaluating, planning, communicating, collaborating, and reflecting. They will be aware of, respect, and support goals of SL classmates.

Service Learning Expectations & Guidelines

1. Curriculum-Based

Each BHHS Service Learning student is expected to be active, positive, and productive in creating and facilitating meaningful service projects and activities. Class lessons, teacher guidance, and SL mentors provide structure and support to meet requirements, but SL student attitude of willingness is essential.

- Over the course of the year, each SL student will develop and execute a minimum of one independent and original project to address community needs in his or her area of interest.
- Throughout the year, SL partners and groups will design relevant service lessons and activities for classes across campus.

NOTE: All applicants should understand that the class has transitioned over the past few years. Someone you know who has taken SL in the past is not the best source of information for the way the class will operate

2. Class Activities and Events

Class meetings follow a schedule of weekly activities. Each week, one or more days are dedicated to class project work, individual project work, and teacher-led lesson plans. *SL is not study hall or free period.*

Regular school-based and whole-class activities include the BHHS recycling program and weekly Buddies hangouts, doing projects with “Buddies” (class of students with disabilities).

Annual events are run by committees and overseen by the teacher/advisor, including Food Drive, Albion Street Christmas Visit, ALS and Vahagn Setian Charitable walks, and BHHS Hair Donation Drive.

Other obligations include assistance with textbooks during August registration, Open House, Back to School Night, and possibly on Staff Development, College Night, and Career Day.

IMPORTANT: Service Learning is a daily class AND an extra-curricular. Students must be committed and prepared to spend a reasonable time participating outside class time.

All SL students are expected to plan accordingly in order to be involved in class and annual events with at least an 85% rate of participation (helping at event, attending on weekend, getting others to sign up, taking recycling, and so on).

A BHHS SL application is a commitment to the activities and goals of the class (see PURPOSE above). Students who are fortunate to be enrolled are held accountable for attending events and working on projects as needed.

Not following through on these commitments will result in loss of points and privileges. Continued lack of commitment will result in removal from class (to TA position in other class) at any point in the semester.

Please email Ms. Marrs for more information— jmarrs@bhusd.org