

## **Ministry Hours Program Overview and Requirements**

### ***Middle School Program Overview:***

Ministry Hours are a way for our students to live out their faith by impacting others for Christ. Not only is it a way to make faith come alive by using our hands and feet in service, it's an important part of our mission here at Des Moines Christian.

In Middle School, service can happen in many different ways. Whether it's working at a Vacation Bible School or church nursery, mowing a neighbor's yard or shoveling their driveway, or partnering with ministries like Joppa or Meals for the Heartland. Wherever the student has the heart to serve and they are doing it to activate their faith and not for monetary gain, they are on the right path!

As students serve, it is important to remember that hours served during the summer can count for the first semester only. Hours served during the first semester of school can carry over to the second semester. All ministry hours are due by the final day of exams each semester.

### ***Requirements for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades:***

All grades in Middle School are required to complete 6 Ministry Hours for the first semester and 6 Ministry Hours for the second semester for a total of 12 hours in the year. Each time hours are completed the Middle School Ministry Hours Form must be turned in to the student's Bible Teacher.

### ***High School Program Overview:***

Because Jesus sets the example for us to serve, we want to provide our students with opportunities to do so, as well. The Holy Spirit endows each believer with certain spiritual gifts for the purpose of serving and edifying the body of Christ. Therefore, each student will take a spiritual gift survey in the first quarter to better understand and identify their God-given giftedness. We desire this to be a habit-forming discipline rather than a legalistic requirement.

High School Ministry Hours differ from Middle School Ministry Hours because they are centered around working with a ministry. If you're trying to decide if your hours will apply, think "What is the ministry?" We want our high school students to mature in Christ, as Ephesians 4 outlines, in order to apply their spiritual gifts to directly help others through an established ministry. This calls for more than mowing the yard or washing a car, it's taking our gifts to partner with a ministry and people to impact the world for Christ. This process allows students to learn how to be better servant-hearted leaders and demonstrate our passion as an apprentice of Christ.

As students serve, it is important to remember that hours served during the summer can count for the first semester only. Hours served during the first semester of school *do not* carry over to the second semester. Ministry hours will be due on the schedule that the teacher sets for the class.

### ***Requirements for 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grades:***

- 9-11<sup>th</sup> Grades: 10 hours per semester, 20 hours total for the year
- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade: 14 hours per semester, 28 hours total for the year
- To receive a Ministry Chord for graduation, a senior must complete and turn in 56 hours.

Each time hours are completed the High School Ministry Hours Form must be turned in to the student's Bible Teacher. These are collected monthly or by a notification from the Bible teacher. 9-10 grades will submit online to Mr. Silver via Google Classroom and 11-12 will turn in a hard copy to Mr. Caves.