

**GMC Charter High School
Syllabus for Service Learning
2017-2018**

Instructor: Shelly Bishop
Email: sbishop@greermiddlecollege.org
Credit: 1 Unit

Course Description:

Service Learning is a teaching method that combines academic instruction, meaningful service, and critical, reflective teaching to enhance learning and civic responsibility. The students work with teachers and students in local elementary schools. Other service sites may be attended at the discretion of the instructor and/or school administration.

THE KEY TO SERVICE LEARNING IS LEARNING TO GIVE TO OTHERS.

The GMC Service Learning program has several different components. The first few weeks are devoted to team building and learning about others. The structure of the class is discussed and determined by the students and the instructor.

Following this preparation unit, students will be assigned work at a service site. Students will be allowed to leave campus to go to their assigned service site. Students are expected to provide their own transportation to their site.

On “B” Fridays, students will attend class to reflect on the week, discuss issues from the services sites and share experiences with the class. Friday will also be reserved for speakers from the community in which students have expressed career interests (medical, law, advertising, etc.)

Students are required to participate in at least two (2) community service projects as a class each semester. The instructor will provide one project during each semester. The other project (each semester) will be decided, planned, and implemented as a group project. Although some of the work on these projects will be done during class time, the actual project may (probably will) take place after school hours or on the weekend and students are required to participate. As Service Learning is an actual class for which students receive high school credit, students may not use their Service Learning projects as GMC volunteer hours.

Service Learning is an opportunity to develop young people who possess virtue, self-worth and concern for their community. It is an evolving course that changes daily. **There will be a strong emphasis on accountability and personal responsibility.** Students are expected to be on time for each class and to be at their assigned worksites.

Expectations: Students are not issued a textbook for this class. However, you are responsible for journals and a portfolio of projects pertaining to the course.

1. Students are expected to adhere to class and GMC standards.
2. To participate in all classroom and outside service activities.
3. To be prepared for class everyday with all materials and a good attitude.
4. To follow the Golden Rule at all times.
5. All school/state discipline, attendance and grading policies will be followed.
6. Each student must have a **GMC Off Campus Contract** on file. The contract must be signed by the students' parent.

Remember that it is a **privilege** to be a part of Service Learning. While you are off campus, you are representing yourself, your family, Greer Middle College Charter High School and Service Learning. It is expected that you behave accordingly.

NOTICE: All students are expected to attend their assigned worksites. Attendance sheets/time cards will be signed and checked bi-weekly. I will follow up at the sites regularly. Failure to attend as assigned or repeated behavior problems will result in the following disciplinary procedures:

First offense...**Reassignment to on-campus worksite** (*such as trash pickup, etc.*)

Second offense...**Removal from Service Learning class** (*earning a WF/withdraw/failing grade*)

Course Evaluation:

Class participation (including "A" week sign-in sheet)	50%
Service Site evaluations (includes time sheets)	50%

Because attendance, tardies, time sheets, etc. are a continual assessment process, it is possible for grades to change dramatically during a grading period.

Time sheets must be turned in on "B" Fridays BY THE END OF THE DAY in order to receive full credit.

Grading Scale	"B" Friday	100
	After Friday	50

Course Guide:

Building a Learning Community

- ✓ Looking inside ourselves
- ✓ Looking for similarities, appreciating our differences
- ✓ Cultural projects
- ✓ Community needs
- ✓ Team-building

Exploring Personal and Social Responsibility

- ✓ Thinking about community
- ✓ Social and personal responsibility
- ✓ Community/school project
- ✓ What do you want to do with your life? How can you help?
- ✓

Please note that this is a tentative outline and is subject to change based on teacher/course discretion and/or unpreventable circumstances.