

Juniors taking Discipleship first semester:

The Theology course **Discipleship in Society** is taken by all juniors. The course is designed to engage students in critical reflection about Jesus' message of service to others. **This course has a 35 hour service component.** Service Learning research supports the fact that 35 hours of service at the same volunteer site allows students to engage more fully in the mission of the organization they are supporting. The course is designed with a light homework load because students are asked to spend just under 2.5 hours a week volunteering for 15 of the weeks of the course.

Some students start their service projects over the summer so some of the time pressure of the junior year curriculum can be alleviated. **We fully support students getting a head start by going through the application and orientation process before the school year begins. We will however, not count service hours over the summer** as students will not have the opportunity for the critical reflection work that we desire in class. Service hours can be counted starting the first day of the semester. Essentially, an early start in securing a volunteer position gives students several extra weeks to complete the service requirement. **It is not necessary to do this over the summer, but we want students to be aware of this option.**

Students will be required to volunteer at a service agency that works with disenfranchised or marginalized populations. **Agencies need to be approved by the Discipleship course instructor or service coordinator.** Email Lisa Lenhart-Murphy, our service expert, to make sure the agency fits the criteria for class. Ms. Lenhart-Murphy can be contacted at llenhart@bsmschool.org.