

# LEARNING THROUGH SERVICE

## ***What is Learning Through Service?***

*It is a teaching and learning approach that integrates community service with academic study to enrich learning, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.*

ALL students at Waterford High School must complete and document a **total of 80 hours** of service over the course of four years as part of the Waterford High School diploma requirements. **Students failing to complete the service requirement will NOT be permitted to graduate.** It is suggested that students perform and document at least 20 hours per academic year. Required total hours are pro-rated for students entering after the first semester of the freshman year as determined by Ms. April Cairns, Learning Through Service Program Coordinator. **Students are responsible for having a thorough knowledge and understanding of all LTS policies, procedures and practices.** Ms. Cairns is available to answer any questions students may have about the program. Forms may be obtained on the LTS bookcase in the school counseling area and on the LTS website.

We maintain a Learning Through Service folder as part of each student's cumulative record file. The folder contains copies of LTS paperwork submitted throughout the student's high school years. Students may request their file at the end of their senior year provided they have completed their LTS graduation requirement. Any LTS files remaining unclaimed after graduation will be destroyed.

## ***What is an acceptable LTS project outside of the classroom?***

The following are some of the criteria which will be used by Ms. Cairns, Learning Through Service coordinator, when determining "meaningful" service. The service must:

- be provided to a **non-profit** organization (not a business)
- be provided free of any remuneration (no payment)
- be consistent with the Waterford High School philosophy as approved by the Waterford Board of Education
- be an active experience that measurably benefits another person, the school community, or the

community at large. Performing tasks for parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, other family members, neighbors, private associations or clubs, etc. does NOT count as a service project. Travel time, attending meetings, orientation, training or rehearsals does NOT count toward your LTS hours.

Any project that does not clearly meet the above criteria **MUST receive pre-approval** from Ms. Cairns or the hours will be denied. Any and all projects performed for nursing homes, hospitals, and colleges/universities require pre-approval. Please note that under most circumstances, LTS credit for marathon events such as Relay for Life will be limited to a maximum of four symbolic hours. Any exceptions will require pre-approval.

