

Community Involvement - Bill Crothers Secondary School

As part of the diploma requirements, students must complete a minimum of 80 hours of community involvement activities during their secondary school years at BCSS. Accumulation of community involvement hours may begin the summer after grade 8.

The York Region District School Board is committed to a healthy, robust and meaningful service experience for students as they complete their community involvement hours. Community involvement is about giving of oneself to make a difference for others and for the greater good of the community. It is about developing strong character. By donating time to help others, students develop a sense of self-fulfillment and enhance their understanding and appreciation of the character attributes adopted by the York Region District School Board.

The purpose of the community involvement requirement is to encourage students to develop an understanding of civic responsibility and the role they can play in supporting and strengthening their communities. Community involvement increases student awareness of community needs and how they can make a positive difference. Helping others enhances self-image of students and fosters a greater sense of belonging. Parents/guardians can help by encouraging students to volunteer and develop lasting ties within their

Parents/Guardians

We ask you to encourage students to seize this opportunity to serve and to develop lasting ties within their communities.

Please provide assistance in the selection and monitoring of community involvement activities. **However, you may not act as formal community activity sponsors for your own children.**

Selection of activities should take into account the:

- eligible activities - see back page of Notification below
- age, maturity, and ability of the student;
- interests and possible career paths of the student;
- location and environment of the proposed activity; and
- need for any special training or equipment.

Please note that community activities outside of the school board will not be supervised by York Region District School Board staff. Please direct any questions or concerns to the community sponsor or the school principal. The [Notification and Completion of Community Involvement Activities Form](#) must be signed by a parent/guardian if the student is under 18 years of age.

STUDENTS:

The BCSS Guidance Department is where you will pick up and return your Community Involvement Sheets. Remember, in order to be a BCSS graduate, you must complete 80 hours of community involvement. The sheets are available to you anytime at the front desk in Guidance.

You are able to start earning community hours as soon as you graduate from your elementary school. Details regarding the Community Involvement Process and Requirements are available on the YRDSB.ca website under “Community”. Please be sure to read the information carefully and be aware of the [Eligible & Non-Eligible](#) activities. **The key to remember is that the organization you volunteer for must be a NON-PROFIT or CHARITY organization. Do not assume that your hours will be approved just because you *volunteer* somewhere. Avoid disappointment, and get them pre-approved.**

If you plan to volunteer during the summer, be sure to have your hours pre-approved before June 19th. You can scan and email the form to the Guidance Department at heather.bergman@yrdsb.ca.

For more information, please visit the YRDSB website under the “Community” tab.