**Mission and Vision Statement**

As part of Metro Classical and Academic High School’s mission, we are dedicated to the classical tradition of civics education through service to others. The **Metro Community Service Program (MCSP)** guides students as they learn the value of service to one’s community and the importance of caring for the welfare of others. The MCSP is a platform to promote and assist students as they form life-long habits of civic engagement through local, national, and global service experiences.

**Meaningful Service**

Parents, staff and students spent time last school year examining and investigating ways to improve the service learning component required by Metro Academic and Classical High School. Many felt that the service requirement had become a “logging of hours” rather than an aid to promote service, which was obviously the original intent of the program. After listening to input and suggestion from our stakeholders we have decided to implement the following changes to the service hour requirements.

1. Beginning with the class of 2022 Metro students will be required and committed to performing at least **200** meaningful community service hours over their four year high school experience. A minimum of 25 service hours will be required each year.
2. The classes of 2019—2021 are now required to complete **250** hours of community service (rather than 300 hours previously required).

The decreasing of required hours will be combined with the most significant change in the program, identifying projects and opportunities that allow students to make a difference in their communities in a **significant** way. School based projects and impactful service hours will be promoted, while “nice deeds” and helpful actions while they will be celebrated, will not be counted towards service hours. We believe these changes will steer the service learning component away from “hours to be completed” to meaningful service to others and our community.

In order to assist students to find the most personal, fulfilling, and impactful service, the MCSP is dedicated to supporting students through this four-year process. The goals of MCSP are to:

1. Link students with proven community service sites that fit students’ interests and are safe.
2. Direct service back into SLPS and the students and families the district serves.
3. Create lasting connections with service sites outside of Saint Louis and abroad to support our IB principles.

Examples of service hours can include: camp counseling, tutoring of SLPS students, mentoring elementary of middle school students, food pantry or social causes volunteering, school based projects that serve or improve Metro, beautification days, organizing blood drives, facilitating a donation drive etc.

Through their service, students can gain valuable life and work experiences, build lasting relationships with community members, develop their character, and contribute to strengthening their communities and their school. Thank you for helping us by encouraging your student to complete meaningful service hours.

I have read and understand the above policy and the implications it has on my child’s graduation from Metro Academic and Classical High School.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Please print student’s name)

Parent’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_