




Helpful Tips for Incoming 6th Graders to Rocky Hill MS

Tip #5 & Tip #6: Student Service Learning (SSL) & Back to School Night

Tip #5: Student Service Learning Hours (SSL): All students must earn a minimum of 75 hours of community service by the end of their high school senior year to graduate from a Maryland high school. Thirty (30) hours are earned throughout the three years of middle school, and these hours are earned during the school year within school hours. 10 hours are earned in each grade, and these hours are automatically entered at the end of each school year. Students earning all 75 hours before graduating middle school will be given the Superintendent's SSL Award. This award may be earned only once in middle school.

MCPS has pre-approved many organizations for SSL. Hours can be earned from these organizations beginning the summer before 6th grade. The Montgomery County Volunteer Center website lists volunteer opportunities for people of all ages, not just MCPS students. **Not all the organizations on the website are MCPS pre-approved!**

- If the organization is **preapproved** by MCPS, you will see a blue box with . Once the volunteering is completed, Form 560-51 must be submitted and approved by our Rocky Hill SSL Coordinators. Forms can be found in the Student Assignment Book and on the website <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ssl/>
 - All PTAs and public schools are preapproved for SSL hours and still must follow the SSL guidelines for specific activities.
- If a student wishes to earn hours from an organization **NOT** preapproved by MCPS for SSL, students must submit the MCPS Form 560-50 Individual SSL Request to their school SSL coordinator at **least 2 weeks in advance** of the service date for approval. Failure to get pre-approval will result in hours not being accepted. You can find this form in the SAB and on the MCPS website <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ssl/>
 - All SSL hours must be recorded and verified using form 560-51.

The deadlines set by MCPS for SSL submission are:

- Service completed during the summer: September 23, 2022
- Service completed during the summer and 1st semester: January 6, 2023
- Service completed during the summer, 1st semester & 2nd semester to be recognized for the Certificate of Meritorious Service (High School Seniors) OR the Superintendent's SSL Award (Middle School): March 30, 2023
- Service completed during the summer, 1st semester & 2nd semester: June 2, 2023

Deadlines are listed at the top of each form and are announced via the morning announcements and the Wildcat Weekly emails. Forms handed in after each deadline will **NOT** be accepted.

Over 1200 forms are handed in over the course of the year at Rocky Hill, so deadlines are important.

- There is a basket in the main office to collect the completed SSL forms.
- Please follow ALL THE DIRECTIONS on the form and be clear. If there is anything missing or cannot be read, the form will be returned to the student and that will delay entry of the data.

If you have any questions regarding SSL Hours, please contact one of our SSL Coordinators: (Ms. Murray and Mrs. Wilkerson).

Tip #6: Back to School Night

Back to School Night is September 8th from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at Rocky Hill MS for all grade levels. This is an excellent opportunity for parents (students do not attend) to meet your child's teachers and hear about all the exciting activities we have planned. You will get to experience first-hand your child's schedule and visit all seven of their classes including homeroom. You will hear about specific content information and general school wide information including: Wildcat Cares, PTA, Parent/StudentVUE, Grading, Communication, Student Assignment Book, Tardy Policy, Cell Phone Policy, Eligibility, Specific Grade Level Events, and Resources for families and student success. The PTA will be at BTSN with tables set up for you to investigate all the exciting plans they have this year for our RH community. The PTA helps fund many of our 6th grade programs which directly benefits our students. We are lucky to have such a great PTA, so anything you can do to help support the association would be appreciated. We are looking forward to seeing you the evening of September 8th!

We hope you find these tips helpful, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me at Lorie.Quinn@mcpsmd.org