



Dear Parent and/or Guardian of a Grade 5 Student:

Student service learning (SSL) is a high school graduation requirement in the state of Maryland. In Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) students may begin working toward the 75-hour graduation requirement the summer after they complete Grade 5. Hours can be earned throughout middle and high school. The following MCPS SSL program overview is intended for students interested in working toward this graduation requirement prior to the beginning of school in August. All MCPS SSL program guidelines must be followed if hours are to be accepted toward the SSL graduation requirement.

- MCPS students may begin working on the 75-hour SSL graduation requirement the summer after they complete Grade 5. Hours can be earned throughout middle and high school.
- Students and parents are encouraged to visit the website www.mcpsssl.org and view the MCPS Video *Give a Little Time, Make a Big Difference* at the site before beginning SSL.
- All SSL in the community must be preapproved.
- MCPS SSL approved community organizations and opportunities are identified with a graduation cap icon  on the website www.mcpsssl.org. Student interested in these should follow up with the organization contact.
- Students interested in participating in service learning with a nonprofit, tax exempt organization that is not identified with a graduation cap icon  on the website must submit a completed MCPS Form 560-50: *Individual Student Service Learning Request*, to Ms. Kimberly A. Brooks, coordinator, SSL Program, via fax at 301-517-8166 or phone at 301-279-3454, and have it granted in advance of any service.
- Detailed SSL program information will be provided by your child's school in Grade 6.

We wish your child meaningful experiences as they learn and serve in Montgomery County.