**University Counseling Morning Meeting: Community Service and Extracurricular Activities** -Emily Parliman, University Counselor, and Richard Tripp, Dean of Students

January 25, 2017

What counts as community service?

* + For it to be valid as “community service, “ students cannot be compensated in any way for their work.
  + The *stage*, completed in seconde, is not considered community service because it is a required part of the school program.
  + Similarly, internships cannot be listed as community service if students are receiving any compensation or course credit.
  + Difference between “school service” and “community service.” Helping a teacher would not count as community service.
  + If you’re not sure if an activity qualifies as community service, refer to the form on the Rochambeau website (log in to the parent portal; contact Richard Tripp if you cannot locate it). There must be an employee who can confirm the student’s hours and participation.

At Rochambeau

* Who organizes service opportunities at Rochambeau?
  + Marie-Claude Genovese: [genovesem@rochambeau.org](mailto:genovesem@rochambeau.org)
  + Contact Richard ([trippr@rochambeau.org](mailto:trippr@rochambeau.org)) with any other questions.
  + Starting in troisième, students have a portfolio that documents all community service hours.
  + Currently 12 active clubs at Rochambeau, including Hope of a Smile, Changemakers, Bridge Builders
* Community service is not required for graduation at Rochambeau.

For college applications

* Community service specifically will not help you get into college. Community service is not required for university admission. Many universities view service favorably; however, it is just one option of extracurricular activity. You could also be involved in arts, athletics, clubs, employment, personal commitments, hobbies, etc.
* In applications: Highlight any leadership roles you’ve held (team captain, co-leader of club, etc.). Say something more than just “member of club” or “250 hours of community service.” Talk about what the purpose of the club is, and how you’ve been involved.
  + “Leadership” is a broad concept. You don’t have to hold a title (president, secretary) to be a leader. You can show leadership in the classroom by helping your peers, or by volunteering to take on some responsibility in a club.
* Provide information about the grade levels in which you participated, and roughly how many hours per week / weeks per year you spent on the activity.
* Colleges would rather see dedication to a few activities, and consistent involvement, than a scattering of activities each year.
* Some institutions will allow you to upload a résumé, if you would like to include more detailed information. [Review sample résumé]
* Community service hours are not included on the transcript that’s sent to universities. Mme. Genovese can provide you with a list of your service hours that you may use as a guide for filling out your applications, but ideally you should focus on details about the activities that have been most meaningful to you.

Summary

* It is just as valuable (if not more so) to volunteer and do service in your local community than to travel to some far-off country to complete service work. Self-motivation is important. If you feel a personal investment to doing service work in Haiti, then by all means you should do that. However, don’t get taken in by “experiences for purchase” (for example, you pay a certain amount of money to be flown to a third-world country where for two weeks you’ll help build an orphanage).
* Quality involvement versus quantity. Don’t take part in any activity just to put it on your résumé or because you think it will look good on college applications. Colleges would rather see depth and dedication, and they can tell when you completed an activity just for the sake of having it on your activity list.