

PURPOSE: To provide clarity on when students are allowed to complete dorm hall work service and provide students with more opportunities to complete dorm hall work service.

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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

SECTION ONE (REASONING):

The MSMS handbook does not provide specific times in which students who are tasked with a work service in either of the residential halls are allowed to complete their work service. This ambiguity has led to Frazer Hall staff imposing strict times that these students must complete their work service. Right now, students with a Frazer Hall work service must complete work service from 2:00 PM-7:00 PM on days Monday-Friday.

Students handle a lot of responsibilities to both their academics and their extracurricular activities. For this reason, many students don't have a gap in their schedule from 2:00 PM-7:00 PM, the cutoff for the time to complete work service. Expanding these hours so that they start at an earlier time and end at a later time allows students to complete their work service on a day they otherwise would not have been able to. Students also partake in competitions for their various extracurricular activities that may prevent them from being able to complete their work service at all that day. This can cause an additional workload for that student's work service partner. For this reason, a student in such a position should be able to make up the work service they missed that day. This can only be done when a student has missed work service for an event, which can be verified by checking a student's blue or yellow card. This is to prevent students from completing two days of work service on weekends and then neglecting it throughout the rest of the week.

Creating work service hours and days that are more accessible to students is for the benefit of the student body and dorms. When more students are able to complete their work service, everyone benefits. The dorms become cleaner, the students become less stressed about completing their work service in such a small window of time, and work service partners are not subjected to additional work. For these reasons, I propose the dorm hall work service hours be explicitly stated as 12:00 PM-10:00 PM Monday-Friday and 12:00 PM-10:00 PM on Saturday and Sunday only for students who missed a work service that week for a school event with Sunday-Thursday hours having the exception of study hours.

SECTION TWO (SPECIFIC CHANGE)

On page 114 of the Student Handbook (PDF page 120) under the section "Work Service," the following would be changed to:

WORK SERVICE

The school is a community of people sharing common ideas and goals, and students contributing to the betterment of the school enhance this community spirit. The time each week a student contributes to the school community benefits everyone. ~~Work service occurs during the student's non-academic hours~~ Work service should be completed within the hours of ~~12:00 PM to 10:00 PM~~ 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM on Monday-Friday except for study hours (unless the student is exempt from study hours) and consists of custodial and non-custodial tasks. ~~No work service is to be completed during study hours or after 10:00 p.m.~~ The work is important to the overall upkeep and functioning of the school, and the quality of the work done by the students exemplifies their pride in their school. The school considers work service an obligation accepted by the students as a condition of maintaining their status with the school. Students must fulfill this obligation each week and can make alternate arrangements when ~~on a field trip~~, sick, or on extended weekends by rescheduling work with their supervisors. ~~Students who miss work service due to absence because of a school or extracurricular event have the opportunity to make up the work service they missed on Saturday or Sunday within the hours of 12:00 PM to 10:00 PM~~ 7:00 AM to 10 PM except for study hours on Sunday. Students are responsible for contacting teachers, their mental/research supervisors, and work service supervisor prior to a field trip absence. Students must fulfill this obligation personally, punctually and adequately. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action. A work service grade will be assigned and reported on quarterly grade reports. Work service grades can be entered each week and are required to be entered at least four (4) times in a nine-week grading period. Work service supervisors will provide students with feedback on performance as needed. This grade is not used in calculating GPA; however, it is taken into consideration when assigning privileges and extending the invitation to return. A student who fails to complete work service for a 9-week grading period will be ineligible for privileges for the next 9- week grading period. A student who completes the school year with make-up hours due must complete that obligation before an invitation to return is extended or before a diploma is issued.