



CITY HONORS SCHOOL
Senior Year Service-Learning Initiative
2025

PHILOSOPHY, FEATURES, AND RESTRICTIONS

City Honors School recognizes the importance of engaging students with learning throughout their experience at the school, including the final months of their senior year. Both the International Baccalaureate Program and the faculty of the school put a strong emphasis on service to one's community. With these principles in mind, CHS will once again offer senior year students an additional opportunity for both service and learning through out-of-school experiences following the culmination of IB and AP examinations. Students in strong standing, will be offered an opportunity to participate in this program.*

*In accordance with State and BPS attendance policies, students who are not enrolled in the Service-Learning Initiative are expected to attend all classes until the conclusion of the school year. Failure to attend school on a daily basis at any time of the year hurts aid to BPS schools and often triggers a hearing by the BPS attendance office. Previous admission to collegiate programs, grants, and scholarships can be revoked by these institutions based on attendance and tardy records City Honors is required to distribute at the end of a student's senior year. Colleges may also choose to have students start their year on "academic probation."

Essential Features of the Initiative:

- **SLI Experiences will take place at not-for-profit community agencies, government offices or educational institutions.**
- **The SLI program is voluntary and unpaid. Students are not allowed to accept payment or other compensation.**
- **Your experience must be in person. Remote work is not acceptable.**
- **SLI Experiences will begin Monday, May 12, 2025 and ends Friday, June 13, 2025. Students attend SLI each school day for 4 hours a day, between the hours of 8am and 4pm.**
- Applications to participate in an SLI Experience are due to **Mrs. Casseri in room 220 no later than Wednesday, April 9, 2025.** Applications submitted well before this date will have a better chance of an approved SLI Experiences that align with student areas of interest.
- A committee of faculty members and administration will review all applications for the SLI program to determine whether a student qualifies.
- Seniors enrolled in the program will be relieved of the requirement to attend their IB and AP courses, with teacher consent, for the duration of their SLI Experience – **once the exams in those classes are over.** They may also be relieved of the requirement to attend non-IB/AP courses **if they are in good standing** in these courses and with teacher consent.
- Daily attendance will be received for working at your SLI site. A student is considered truant if they fail to attend.
- Students should work hard to secure their own SLI Experience and submit this arrangement for approval. If you request a placement be found for you, you are not guaranteed a placement since availability is very limited.
- CHS teachers will serve as "SLI Experience Monitors," each taking a caseload of students enrolled in the program and will make regular phone calls, and in some cases site visits, in order to verify that students are attending on a daily basis and meeting the needs of their SLI Experience sites.

There are a number of important boundaries that are a part of the initiative. They are critical for it to function as a legitimate exercise in service learning and to operate within attendance policy requirements. **Students who do not believe they can work within these restrictions are asked not to consider this opportunity.**

Special Restrictions Include:

- Hours of service learning must be completed between 8:00am and 4:00pm each day school is in session. (Any exceptions to restriction must be requested via the application for the program.)
- **A student must continue to attend any course for which the instructor has not granted release time** or turn in any required assignments as per the teacher.
- **All students enrolled in IB and AP courses must obtain teacher approval and MUST CONTINUE TO ATTEND those courses UNTIL THE EXAM takes place.**
- **Students taking courses that end with Regents exams must continue to attend these courses, unless other arrangements are made with the teacher.**
- Two unexcused absences from an SLI Experience or a report of any conduct or work ethic unbecoming a CHS student during the SLI Experience will immediately result in the revocation of a student's participation in the program and require that a student return to attending each class of the day.
- Students will be provided with attendance logs that must be accurately recorded and signed by the supervisor at the SLI Experience site.
- **Students MAY NOT use a part-time job or supplement other paid employment for the Senior Service - Learning Initiative at City Honors School. This is a service-learning initiative, not an internship.**
- Students must agree to dress in a fashion that is appropriate to the setting of the SLI Experience.
- Upon completion of the SLI on June 13th, all students must complete an experience reflection survey. A PDF of the signed time log and survey is due via email to Mrs. Casseri by Monday, June 16th. **There will be a hold on commencement activities for all students who fail to submit both forms by noon on Tuesday, June 17th. Any questions should be directed to Mrs. Casseri via email dcasseri@buffaloschools.org.**
- Transportation to and from SLI sites is the responsibility of the student. However, if the student utilizes a metro-bus pass, you should check the box on the application so an activity pass can be obtained.
- The application committee encourages all students to make their SLI a new experience and to put themselves in positions where they will have to utilize social and diplomatic skills. Therefore, working for parents and relatives is strongly discouraged and rarely approved. The application committee reserves the right to decline such requests. Any such applications should include a rationalization for the committee.
- You may not start your SLI Experience until you are informed that it has been approved.
- **Parental approval and signature must be obtained to participate in this program. Parents and students must agree to indemnify and save harmless the Buffalo Board of Education ("Board") from and against all loss and damage, claims and demands, costs and charges, including attorney's fees, for injuries to persons or damage to property, or other causes that may arise or accrue as a result of participation in this program. No parent should consent to his/her child's participation in this program if he/she does not feel comfortable indemnifying the Board from and against any and all liability arising out of such participation.**

- Are there any special requests or conditions of your experience of which you would like to make the committee aware?: _____

- Please list the name, title, contact phone number, and signature of the person who will be supervising you in your SLI work.

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Title: _____

Email: _____

I have carefully read the attached pages related to the CHS Senior Year Service Learning Initiative entitled *PHILOSOPHY, FEATURES, and RESTRICTIONS* and have agreed to provide the above named student with a minimum of four hours of SLI work each school day from May 12, 2025 to June 13, 2025.

Signature of SLI Site Supervisor

- ONLY fill in the information below if you have not secured your own SLI Experience and would the committee to try and secure one on your behalf. (You are not guaranteed a placement)

Use the space below to describe your ideal SLI location/experience:

★ Parent and Student Signatures:

I have read the attached pages related to the CHS Senior Year Service Learning Initiative entitled *PHILOSOPHY, FEATURES, and RESTRICTIONS* and give my child permission to participate in this program. I understand that I will be indemnifying the Board from and against any and all liability arising out of such participation. I understand I am also accepting all liability for my child's welfare, safety, and behavior during the program. No parent should provide consent to participate in this program if they do not feel comfortable with their child participating.

Parent Signature

Daytime Phone(s)

I have read the attached pages related to the CHS Senior Year Service Learning Initiative entitled *PHILOSOPHY, FEATURES, and RESTRICTIONS* and will comply with all stipulations of this program. I understand that failure to do so jeopardizes my participation in commencement and other year end activities at City Honors School.

Student Signature

Questions? Contact Mrs. Casseri dcasseri@buffaloschools.org