

*An act of service reflects generosity of time, energy, and resources.  
It is an investment of self-- spirit, body, mind -- in helping to meet the needs of others.*

The Columbus Academy Service Board

Fall 2011

Dear Parents and Grade 10 Students,

We hope this finds you well. This year's Upper School Service Day is scheduled for Friday, September 16, 2011. In conjunction with the new Ethics and Community course all sophomores will be participating in a poverty simulation as part of their Service Day experience. Using a program developed by the Missouri Association for Community Action and staffed by faculty, parents, and student leaders, the simulation experience is intended to help participants begin to understand the daily challenges for a typical low-income family. This will be the second time CA students have had the opportunity to participate in the simulation; last school year members of several upper school groups participated. The experience was such that we decided to attempt this once again and to link it to the new sophomore course.

The event will be held at Broad Street United Methodist Church on the corner of Broad and Washington in downtown Columbus. Because one aspect of the simulation is the recognition of how important reliable, affordable transportation is in getting and keeping a job, grade 10 students with adult chaperons will be shuttled to nearby COTA bus stops so they can ride the bus to the site. Because of the stops COTA buses make, it takes about 4 times as long to get to the site by COTA bus as it does by car.

**Groups of students and adults will be leaving the school at staggered times (7:35am, 8:05am, 8:40am).** It is *very* important that each student is in Ms. Swinford's room (the designated meeting spot for all shifts) on time -- bus timetables are very unforgiving. **Also very important: each student must bring \$1.75 in quarters to school for bus fare.**

The simulation will run for approximately three hours, including orientation and debriefing, and will include a lunch prepared by Ms. Hamlar's advisory using a modified shelter kitchen menu. Students will return to CA via school bus in time for Club Fair activities.

It is our hope that this event will open eyes and start conversations. Some of those conversations will occur in the Ethics and Community course, but we hope they won't end there. Please talk with your sophomore about the poverty simulation and his/her own experience at home. With your support, we can make this significant experience the beginning of significant shifts in the school's exploration of the pressing issues of our time. Should you have any questions about the types of activity or site, feel free to contact Ms. Bening at [Christy\\_Bening@ColumbusAcademy.org](mailto:Christy_Bening@ColumbusAcademy.org) Questions about advisory composition or assignments should be directed to Ms. Sheri Dillon, Upper School Dean, 614.509.2277 or [Sheri\\_Dillon@ColumbusAcademy.org](mailto:Sheri_Dillon@ColumbusAcademy.org)

If you would like to participate, please contact PACA representatives, Karen Skilken ([kskilken@gmail.com](mailto:kskilken@gmail.com)) or Rebecca Shocket ([RASHocket@aol.com](mailto:RASHocket@aol.com)).

We are looking forward to a fun and rewarding day.

Sincerely,

Cami Mampieri  
Service Board Vice Pres.

Stephan Kim  
Service Board Pres.

Christy Bening  
Service Board Advisor

**Broad Street UMC  
501 East Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43215-3822**

**Phone: 614-221-4571**

**Clothing: neat, modest, in good repair**

**Lunch: at site**

**Transportation: COTA bus to site/school bus return to CA**