

Service Learning: A New Rubric from Belize



At Muffles College High School (Orange Walk Town, Belize), students annually complete a community service report highlighting their volunteer work over the year. To emphasize service learning, the rubric includes background information about the service recipient or service site, reflection, prayer and more.

Mrs. Patricia Luna, head of the religion department at Muffles, reflected on the service learning program:

"A famous maxim used by our foundress, Catherine McAuley said that 'we need to teach our students for earth without unfitting them for heaven.' Our service program here at Muffles is specially designed to teach and guide our students to live out their Mercy identity and the school's mission and to put this into practice through the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy in their daily lives. It was designed to allow our students to reach out to their community in the poor, the sick, the elderly, the unemployed, the forgotten and even those whom our society considers different. It aims to advocate and promote the protection of mother earth, the defense of women and women's issues and of course to help and defend those who come from a foreign country who seek refuge in Belize. The service they do through our school molds them to be caring and loving individuals who continue to give back to the community even after graduating from Muffles. These are the men and women of Mercy our school helps to mold and create, and these are the reasons why the service learning program is important to our school."

Click on the link below to view the Muffles College service learning rubric resource.

This article was first published in Flash, the newsletter of Mercy Education System of the Americas. For more information on the work of Mercy Education System of the Americas, please visit their website, www.mercedu.org/.