

**Saratoga
Independent
School**





Why Service Learning?

- Increased student motivation
- Alignment between what students are taught and what students need to know for “the real world”
- Clarity about what students are learning and why
- A greater sense of agency and empowerment for students
- Increased student engagement
- More meaningful feedback from an adult who is close to the real-world problem
- Variety in the day-to-day routines of class
- Connection to and pride in the community

The Cone of Learning

After two weeks, we tend to remember



For travel and language guides, visit the [intrepidguide.com](https://www.intrepidguide.com)



SIS' Strategic Plan

“Community Relationships: Internal & External Engage with current stakeholders (parents, students, faculty and staff) and the greater Saratoga community to promote retention & boost recruitment; collaborate with external community organizations to enhance student experience, promote S.I.S.'s unique educational offering...”

Service learning fits SIS'
motto, mission, and
philosophy.

“We take care of ourselves, each other, our school, and our community”.



- Teaching students that taking care of others outside of our school community allows them to see that they have the ability to use “critical thinking, problem solving, and teamwork” to make a difference on a larger scale.

Service-learning is a particularly fertile way of involving young people in community service, because it ties helping others to what they are learning in the classroom. It enables them to apply academic disciplines to practical, everyday problems. In the process, it provides a compelling answer to the adolescent's perennial question, 'Why do I need to learn this stuff?'

Colin Powell

Goals of SIS CARES

- Learn more about the Saratoga Springs Community
- Get experience working with different organizations each year
- Learn about resources that help people in different situations
- Create the skills to be an active citizen in their community
- Learn from others



Program Overview

1. Community Day

Learn more about each of the organizations through presentations by participating organizations

2. Decisions

Students pick top 3 organizations after Community Day

3. Placement

Based on preferences, students will be placed with a specific organization

4. Volunteering

Volunteer afternoons will be set to go and get hands on experience at organization

5. Reflection

Use digital journal to reflect on your time volunteering

6. Final Presentations

Students come together and create larger projects about their volunteer time

Community Day

Representatives from each organization introduce themselves, the mission of their organization, and present volunteer opportunities to students.



Community Day

Organized like a job fair, each organization will host a booth at which students can ask specific questions about the organization's mission, and volunteer opportunities.



Volunteering

- Volunteer afternoons will be spent at assigned organizations
- Students learn a new skills, help others, and become more active members of their community
- Students demonstrate what it means to represent the school off campus and behave in an engaged and professional manner

Reflection

After each volunteer afternoon, students reflect on their experience in a digital journal.

What?

So what?

Now what?



We take care of our school

Students will complete at least an hour of community service at SIS.

Several opportunities will occur throughout the year.

They may include:

- Helping in the SIS garden
- Supporting a lower school or after school program
- Helping at a school event
- Maintaining the nature trail



Final Presentations

Final Group Projects

Groups will present projects reflecting on work done at a specific organization drawing on their reflection journals and group discussion.

8th Grade Final Projects

8th graders pick an organization they have previously worked with to create a culminating capstone project.

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Community And Real-world
Experience for Students