



RUMMIKUB is a common activity for volunteers to participate in with residents of Benchmark Senior Living, Stamford. Photo by Natalia Gibek ('27).



STAMFORD NATURE CENTER A place where Westhill students like Caroline Chan ('27) already do community service. Photo courtesy of Stamford Nature Center.

Bring Back Mandatory Service Hours

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Community service is something teenagers should participate in at least a few times a year, but unfortunately, many no longer do. It is a really important part of society, and it contributes a lot to people in need.

Most high schools used to require students to have a certain amount of community service hours in order for them to graduate, and although schools offer more community service opportunities now than in the past, less schools require it to graduate. Many students do it because it looks good on their resumes, but they often learn to love it.

Community service should be required for every high school student. Not only does it help the people in need; it also greatly impacts the people who participate in community service. It can help them get jobs and it looks good for college applications. Aside from this, it helps them meet new people and form connections, and it causes people to look at things from a different perspective.

It can help high school students to mature and gain exposure to different things.

"It's good for the people in the nursing home because they don't see kids our age very often, and it benefits me because I want to be a nurse, so it gives me more experience with older people," said Natalia Gibek ('27), who

volunteers at a nursing home.

Volunteering is a good way to find out what career path you may be interested in, and to gain experience before getting a job. Even though they might really enjoy it, most students don't do it unless their schools require it.

Most students already have a lot on their plates, so having to do community service hours on top of everything else may seem daunting. But even if they had to do just a few hours a year, it could really benefit them.

"I have gotten to know so many people, there's so many wonderful people that work there, and I love being around them; whenever I'm there it's a really positive experience," said Katie Puk ('27), who also volunteers at a senior home.

It also teaches students better interpersonal skills, patience, and communication skills, and patience. Students may learn how to work with different kinds of people and are exposed to a variety of people, which helps them gain a much more open-minded perspective when it comes to people's situations that may be dissimilar from theirs, and patience.

If more schools require community service, students may come to realize the value in volunteering, and they would be helping people in need.