

Senior Project Explanation to Mentors

Purpose

Being a senior is all about transitioning from the world of high school to the adult post-secondary world – whether that is further education or the workforce. It is important then, that one important aspect of a senior’s education should be to focus on making that transition as smooth as possible. Senior project is designed to do just that.

Senior Project is a challenging, rigorous and relevant process in which senior students blend real-world application with traditional learning, in which students embark on an in-depth topic that is of special interest to them. It is designed to allow students to explore, pursue, grow, and communicate their personal interest and to showcase abilities and effort that are considered attributes in the adult workforce.

Project Overview

Each senior student completes a research paper, creates a product related to the paper, and completes a portfolio documenting the process. Finally, each student makes a presentation on their findings before a community review panel.

The four components of a Senior Project each reflect quality student work. The senior project must tie in with a major employment industry, adding an important school-to-career component to get the student thinking beyond the four walls of the classroom. The process begins with research to provide the student a solid foundation of knowledge from which to conduct the project. Students select an adult mentor, an expert in their area of interest, who agrees to assist them with their project. A minimum of twenty hours of independent fieldwork is conducted to complete the product. A portfolio showcases the connection between the paper and fieldwork. Included in the portfolio are the research paper, a letter of introduction, a resume, letters of recommendation, a log detailing the student’s fieldwork, an evaluation by the mentor and a letter of reflection by the student. A seven to ten minute presentation by the senior allows the student the opportunity to communicate and/or demonstrate the finished product.

The Result

Sr. project is one of the most important educational experiences a senior will have. Upon completion of the senior project each student will have gained important research and writing skills, valuable communication skills, and will leave high school with a portfolio to present to any college and employer. Most importantly, perhaps, is the confidence that each student gains in knowing that they have been stretched beyond their comfort zones proving to themselves and to the world what they are able to accomplish.