

Senior Capstone

Course Description & Essential Information

Background Information

The goal of any high school should be to prepare students for their professional or collegiate and personal lives after graduation.

The learning objectives for capstone courses typically include providing students with the opportunity to

- 1) learn about volunteer service/project development process and project management,
- 2) learn to solve open-ended problems with many "correct" answers,
- 3) develop their written and verbal communication skills, and
- 4) develop their teamwork and interpersonal skills through a team-based project experience.

To create truly multidisciplinary projects, students must draw from knowledge they have learned in English, math, psychology, art, and business courses, among others.

In courses involving many projects, one instructor cannot effectively advise all project teams. In this case, additional human resources are needed to advise project teams. Students will be encouraged to find a professional mentor to assist as an advisor for their senior capstone projects.

Support from industry partners is beneficial to maintain a successful Senior Capstone course. Support may be in the form of guest speakers, project sponsors, mentors and advisors, and/or curriculum advisors.

I will send out information after the students have submitted project proposals and received project approval to see if you or someone you know would be able to advise students as they develop their projects. Working with students who are so enthusiastic about their projects is a wonderful and rewarding experience (I know – it is my very favorite course to teach!)

Course Description (as it appears in the online "course catalogue")

COURSE TITLE:	Senior Capstone
PREREQUISITES:	Successful Completion of English 9, 10, and 11
LENGTH:	1 Trimester only
GRADE LEVEL:	12 (Students must be able to leave the school grounds.)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

If you like to help others, this is the course for you! This course has been designed so that you will work with a small group (of your choice) to design and plan a project of your own choosing. Projects in the past have ranged from being simply informational in nature to building projects like bat houses for the Wittenbach Center to spending time with the elderly, helping the poor of local communities, and even alleviating the post-traumatic stress of suffering children. Project choices are up to each group. In the end, you will have the chance to actually implement your project. **This course is a single trimester class that may be taken during the second trimester of the senior year and is NOT a prerequisite for any other English course offered. Students may take this plus any other single trimester course(s) in any combination to make a two semester or even a year-long English plan.**

This class will help you:

- to prepare for working independently in college or technical school,
- to plan a schedule and follow your plan,
- to help people, your community, your state, your nation, your world
- to practice working well in teams,
- to meet adults and build networking skills,
- to write for a *real* purpose,
- to discover your strengths,
- to grow as an individual,
- to learn to use new technologies,
- to increase scholarship opportunities,
- and to prepare for your future as a global citizen.

In a Nutshell

Students will work in a small, self-selected group to design a project that will meet a need in the school, community, state, nation, or world. Within groups, students will propose their ideas and, after approval, will develop and implement their projects.

Special Requirement

Because students may have a mentor who is off campus that they must meet with occasionally or may have a project that takes place off campus, they must be able to leave school and either transport themselves or ride with a group member. To do this, students must have prior approval from their parents and/or guardians.

Parent/Guardian Permission

I, _____, give my consent for my teen, _____ to leave the high school campus as needed to complete the Senior Capstone Project during the second trimester of the 2013-2014 school year. I also consent to my teen either providing his/her own transportation or riding with a group member or school official for the purpose of the capstone project.

Student Commitment

I, _____, promise that I will only leave campus to complete the Senior Capstone Project. I will ***always*** receive permission from my instructor, Mrs. Keglovitz prior to signing out in the office. I will make sure that I sign out in the office and list exactly who I am meeting with and/or where I am going during my time off campus. I will also make sure that I have listed a phone number, either mine or a group member's number along with an off-site phone number (if available), ***where I can be reached at all times during my time off campus.***

