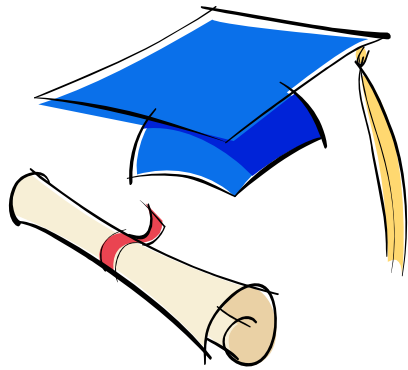


**North Schuylkill Junior-Senior
High School
Graduation Project
Student Booklet**



2010-2011

**North Schuylkill High School
15 Academy Lane
Ashland, PA 17921**

Introduction

The North Schuylkill Graduation Project is a graduation requirement that complements the education our students receive in the classroom. The project provides the student with the opportunity for in-depth study, creative endeavor, and/or community service. Students will select a topic of their choice involving research, community service and/or project-based learning.

After a student identifies a topic of interest, the graduation project committee and administration will together approve or deny the project topic. The Graduation Project will require students to identify community needs, consult resources, conduct research, plan, develop and implement the project, and prepare and present an oral presentation.

In a successfully completed graduation project, students will demonstrate that they have applied, analyzed, synthesized, and evaluated information and communicated significant knowledge and understanding of their chosen topic.

In order to complete the graduation project, students will need to demonstrate self-initiative. **The project is entirely student driven.** Advisors, resources, and teachers are available to assist students, but the students must initiate the request for support. The graduation project is designed to prepare students for life after high school, whether that may be post-secondary education or work.

Graduation Project Categories

1) Service-Learning Project Option

Service Learning is a method of learning through which students apply their academic skills and knowledge to address real-life needs in their own communities. Service Learning is a hands-on approach to mastering subject material while fostering civic responsibility.

- Students will conduct an original service-learning project that will in some way benefit the community. (Service)
- Students will conduct research using numerous scholarly sources to successfully complete the learning element of the project. Students will then use this research to create materials relevant to the project. (Learning)
- A Works Cited Page must be created in MLA format for all resources consulted.
- If done in a group, there may be no more than two students in a group.
- Each student/group is required to make all appropriate communications and obtain the documentation to fulfill project requirements.
- Each student in the group must document the project from start to finish and must keep an updated blog and wiki. These requirements will also be a mandatory part of your project presentation.
- Photos, videos, or other visual evidence of project completion are also a mandatory part of this project and should be uploaded to your wiki.

- The finished graduation project presentation will demonstrate that each student has worked no less than 40 hours on this project. Students are responsible for documenting all hours spent on the project.

2) **Project-Based Learning Option**

Project-Based Learning is an individual or group activity that goes on over a period of time, resulting in a product, presentation and/or performance. Project-Based Learning is a hands-on approach to learning that requires students to master communication and presentation, research and inquiry, organization and time management, self-assessment and reflection, and group participation and leadership skills.

- Student will design, create and implement an original project-based learning experience.
- Students will write a rationale that explains in detail the necessity of the project. (Learning)
- Students will also create a blue-print that creates a visual representation of the work that will be completed. (Learning)
- Students will then use their rationale and blue-print to create an original project. (Project)
- A Works Cited Page must be created in MLA format for all resources consulted.
- Photos, videos, and other visual evidence of project completion are also a mandatory part of this project and should be uploaded to your wiki.
- If done in a group, there may be no more than two students in a group.
- Each student in the group must document the project from start to finish and must keep an updated blog and wiki. These requirements will also be a mandatory part of your project presentation.
- The finished graduation project presentation will demonstrate that each student has worked no less than 40 hours on this project. Students are responsible for documenting all hours spent on the project.

Important Notice Regarding Graduation Projects

- Each student will be assigned a faculty advisor.
- Faculty advisor will act as a “guide” and assist you in meeting the timelines and benchmarks designed to make the process more efficient.
- Graduation Projects must be successfully completed to fulfill graduation requirements.
- Students are required to meet all project due dates and guidelines.

Graduation Project Wiki Homepage

The graduation project wiki is a central location where all project information will be housed. The Graduation Project Wiki can be located at <http://2011.northschuylkill.wikispaces.net/>. The following information is available on the wiki.

- Instructions and forms necessary for project approval
- Timelines and due dates
- Advisor Information
- Rubrics
- Sample Projects
- Graduation Project Booklet
- Project Announcements

Student Graduation Project Blog and Wiki

Each student will have his/her own graduation wiki and blog that will be linked to the Graduation Project Wiki Homepage. The following are the requirements that need to be uploaded to or located on the student wiki.

- All visual evidence of various phases of project completion and any materials created to supplement the project
- MLA Works Cited page listing all sources used
- Rationale and blue-print (Project-Based Only)
- The PowerPoint that will be used for the Oral presentation
- The link to the student's blog (see below)

Each student must keep a blog. The following are the requirements for the blog.

- All blog entries are meant to describe the work completed throughout all phases of the project.
- Each student must complete a minimum of two blog entries per month starting in September and continuing until the oral presentation and completion of his/her project.
- Each blog should contain a detailed paragraph explaining the work that has been completed, challenges that have ensued, and upcoming tasks.
- Each blog entry should also contain a paragraph explaining what the student has learned through the project at that time.
- Blog entries should also contain information about meetings with your advisor. (You are required to meet a minimum of 2 times with your advisor.)
- The blog will be monitored monthly by administrators, advisors and the graduation project committee to ensure that students are adhering to the aforementioned guidelines.

Oral Presentation Guidelines

The oral presentation is the final requirement prior to the completion of the graduation project. The oral presentation requires the student to explain to a group of administrators and faculty members all phases of the graduation project and offers proof of project completion. The oral presentation must adhere to the following guidelines and contain the following elements.

1. PowerPoint Presentation

- A PowerPoint presentation that reflects and explains the information the student learned while completing the project. It also needs to explain the process undertaken to complete the project.
- The PowerPoint presentation needs to be well-organized, grammatically correct, error free, and visually pleasing.
- If students are working in a group, only one PowerPoint presentation per group is required.

2. Wiki and Blog Presentation

- Students will be expected to walk the panel through their wiki highlighting and explaining all visual evidence of project completion (photos, videos, etc.).
- Any materials students created to supplement their project should also be shown at this time (pamphlets, brochures, etc.).
- Students must also show their Works Cited page and explain the sources used.
- Students must show and explain their rationale and blue-print (Project-Based Only)
- Students must also show their blog and discuss any obstacles, challenges, successes, etc. that they encountered throughout the completion of their project.
- If students are working in a group, each student must show their individual wiki and blog.

3. Oral Presentation Guidelines

- Students will be assigned a time and date to present and are expected to be prepared to present at this time.
- Oral Presentation must last a minimum of 10 minutes but should not exceed 15 minutes.
- All students presenting in a group must have equal parts in the presentation and must show their individual wiki and blog.
- Students must be dressed professionally and appropriately and must adhere to the district dress code.
- Students must demonstrate proper public speaking skills. For more information on public speaking, please see the graduation project wiki homepage.
- At the conclusion of the presentation, students will be expected to submit documentation indicating they have spent a minimum of 40 hours completing the project.

Please be sure to check the wiki home page regularly for updates, announcements, forms, instruction, etc. Remember to adhere to all due dates as outlined on the wiki. The Graduation Project Wiki Homepage can be located at <http://2011.northschuykill.wikispaces.net/>.