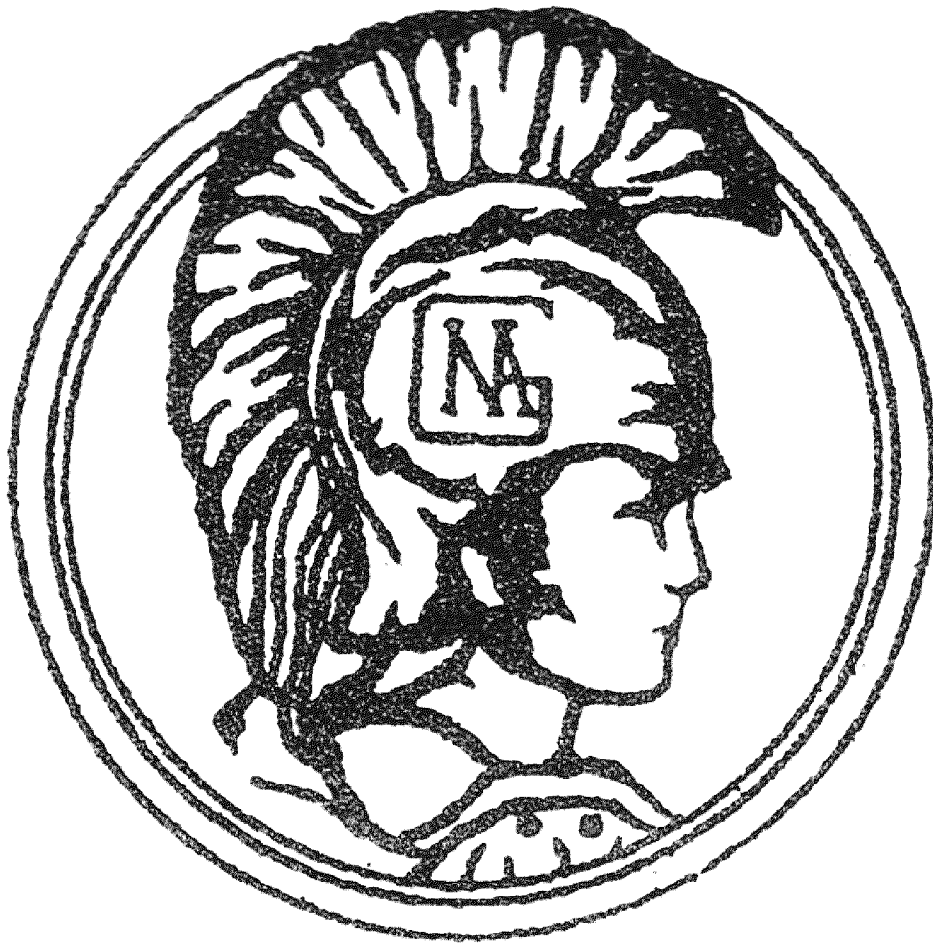# Greater Nanticoke Area

Senior Project Manual
2010-2011

Timeline for Senior Projects 2010-2011

April 23, 2010
Last day to choose an advisor for your senior project.

May 13, 2010
Students must have an application and proposal (Appendix A, parts I &II) handed in to Mrs. Pray.

September 7, 2010
Last day to make a change to the senior project proposal. A new proposal must be handed in.

September 10, 2010
Students must submit to their advisor a written outline of paper and some of the sources that will be used in the final paper.

October 14, 2010
Each student should have met with his/her advisor at least three times by this date.

Before you present your senior project

- Student should submit a rough draft of paper to advisor, who will examine paper for sources, relevance, and grammatical errors. Paper will be retuned to student with a written evaluation of progress.

- Student should have submitted a second draft of paper, which should have addressed the issues that your advisor had with rough draft.

November 1, 2010
First day to start presenting the senior projects. **The research paper must accompany the presentation.**

March 31, 2011
All students will have presented their projects by the end of March.
NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE FOR ANY REASON.

Graduation Project

Pennsylvania Department of Education's Definition of Graduation Project

"Each school district (including charter schools) shall specify requirements for graduation in the strategic plan 4.13 (relating to strategic planning). Requirements shall include course completion and grades, completion of a culminating project, and results of local assessments aligned with the academic standards.... The purpose of the culminating project is to assure that students are able to apply, synthesize and evaluate information and communicate significant knowledge and understanding" (Chapter 4.24)

Graduation Requirement

In order to graduate from the Greater Nanticoke Area Senior High School, a student shall complete a project in one or more areas of concentrated study, while under the guidance and direction of the high school faculty.

- Community service
- Artistic/literary creativity
- Career exploration
- Academic research

The purpose of this project is to provide the student an opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge gained and maturity achieved during his/her high school career. The graduation project gives the student the chance to choose an area of study, to combine different disciplines, to satisfy specialized curiosity and to utilize talents in a productive manner. The project gives an opportunity to make the high school experience a meaningful and practical one.

Each student will select a topic involving an area of student interest, specialization or career choice. The project will consist of two components: A Written Component, with documented research about the topic, and an Oral Presentation/Exhibition, which demonstrates the research knowledge gained.

The student will work with an Advisor, who will guide and document the student's research and progress. A Project Review Panel will evaluate the final components of the project. The project, therefore, will demonstrate the student's ability in integrating curriculum skills and will provide for student exploration of life skills, individual creativity and the application of knowledge learned in life.

It is the mission of the Greater Nanticoke Area School District to create an environment that will enable every student to meet the challenge of tomorrow through the required acquisition of the knowledge, skills and self-esteem essential to adapt to ever-changing society.

Choosing a Graduation Project

To help with your brainstorming, the following questions have been provided for you to narrow your initial choices to the topic most appropriate for you.

1. What area/interest is of greatest importance to me?
2. What area/interest is most reflective of my talents?
3. What area/interest will I most likely use following graduation?
4. What area/interest will most contribute to my future career?
5. What area/interest will give me access to the most resources for my research?
6. What area/interest is most original?
7. In what area/interest will I most likely find an advisor?
8. What area/interest will enable me to be comfortable in my topic presentation?

Objectives

- Students will demonstrate the ability to effectively incorporate technology
- Students will demonstrate the ability to plan.
- Students will demonstrate effective writing skills
- Students will analyze topic specific research
- Students will evaluate appropriateness of sources
- Students will demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate orally

Proposal and Application

Each student will submit a written proposal that will serve as your project application. In general, your application will state what your project is about, what you hope to learn, and how you intend to undertake your project. You will discuss your proposal application with your parents for their advice and subsequently with your advisor. All proposals will go before a committee for approval. You will submit a final copy of your proposal application to be kept with your graduation project file. You may then begin to work on a written plan that will describe your project in detail. Your written plan serves to document and explain all of the components of your project including:

- Personal interest
- Project plan
- Resources
- Project Presentation (the final form your project will take)

Your written plan must be typed, dated, and signed. Also, it must be of sufficient length to appropriately describe your project. Details are enclosed in Appendix A of this manual.

Senior Graduation Project Syllabus

Overview
- The Senior Graduation Project is a major piece of hands-on work that **you** complete and design.
- The Senior Graduation Project is required for graduation from the Greater Nanticoke Area Senior High School
- The Senior Graduation Project gives you the opportunity to pursue a specific interest.

Parts of the Process

1. The Plan
- The process that helps you to design your project
- Your first step-the selection of a topic
- Serves as a personal guide
- Describes what you intend to do

2. Evidence of Progress
- Three pieces of evidence that show how you developed your project.
- Evidence may consist of:
  o Research notes
  o Photography/Video
  o Planning and/or interview notes
  o Rough Drafts
  o Sketches

3. Final Project
- The result of all your work
- Examples:
  o Brochure you design and create
  o Landscape project you design and supervised
  o Experiment you conducted
  o Research report answering hypothetical question
  o Community service projects

4. Oral Written Presentation
- Project to be presented to a faculty committee and other interested individuals
- At least four concepts must be included:
  o What you did
  o The skills you applied
  o What you learned by doing the project
  o How well you think you did (a personal assessment or self-evaluation)

5. **Evaluation of the Senior Graduation Project**
- Categories to be evaluated
  1. Required documentation throughout the semester
  2. Conferences with your advisor
  3. Written Report in MLA format
  4. Actual Project
  5. Oral Presentation

- Rating classified as:
  1. Pass-Highly Successful
     Project/Presentation is outstanding: You have gone beyond what is required
  2. Pass-Successful
     Project/Presentation is very good: You have met all requirements of the project
  3. Fail-Not yet successful
     Project/presentation does not meet the requirements: It may be incomplete or disorganized
- Categories from which to choose:
  - You must select from one of three categories for your project
  - Your project must be approved by the Senior Graduation Project Committee.

Applied Studies Project	**A physical product**
	Examples:
	1. Scale model presentation or visual display
	2. Make a coordinated ensemble consisting of a jacket, skirt, and shorts.
	3. Construction of a table and chairs.
Interdisciplinary/Disciplinary Project	**Interdisciplinary**
	1. Research paper or project applying knowledge from two or more academic areas
	Example: What effect does music have on plant growth? --- applied to music and agriculture areas
	Disciplinary
	1. Research paper or project applying knowledge within one academic area
	Examples:
	1. What are the reading interests of 11th grade students? --- Language Arts
	2. What is the best 35 mm camera on the market within a specific price range? --- Graphic Arts Area
Future Project	1. An inquiry into the future of your values, capabilities, aspirations, and career interests.
	2. Involves examination of carious options you might choose for your life's work.
	3. Research several alternatives, preparations, and entrance requirements for fields of interest, analysis of your own aptitudes, shadowing appropriate individuals.

The Proposal

Purpose:
- Used for approval of project
- Describes your finished project (research paper, applied project)
- Serves as a guide in completing and evaluating your project

Personal Guide to Success
- The success of your project "may rest squarely upon the quality of the proposal you submit"
- "A proposal is a straightforward document. It should not be cluttered with extraneous matter. It begins with a straightforward statement of the question or problem to be researched."
- A proposal is not a production. A proposal will indicate how an individual project is to be executed to completion, with an economy of words and a precision of expression.
- A proposal is clearly organized. Proposals and thoughts are expressed in simple paragraph form.

Writing the proposal
- Prepare a typed proposal for submission at your first conference with your faculty advisor.
- Cover the following questions:
    - What would you like to do as a project?
    - Why do you want to do this project?
    - How do you plan to carry through and complete this project?

Sample Proposal

For my senior graduation project, I would like to research Elementary Education. Some of my reasons for selecting this topic are (1) I love working with younger children; (2) I hope to major in elementary education in college; (3)…

This project could probably be best classified as a future's project. Since this will be my college major, the research will hopefully reveal if I have the interest to be an elementary teacher.

In order to complete my project, I tentatively plan to (1) contact an elementary teacher. Upon completion of my project, I expect to have a research paper, an outline detailing all my activities, photographs of my elementary school visits, and several "projects" created by me and used with the elementary students.

Requirements
1. Cover sheet that includes:
    - Project Title
    - Name
    - Homeroom
    - Advisor
    - Date
2. Double Space on Standard Paper (8 ½ X 11)
3. Size 12 font
4. Black Ink
5. 1 or 1 ½ inch margins all around
6. MLA format

The Proposal Should:
- Describe the focus and the purpose for selection of the project
- Describe project issues and topics
- Be approved by a parent/guardian and faculty advisor with a signature

Considerations for your Senior Graduation Project
- You must be able to complete the project by the specified due date on the adopted time schedule
- All materials you need to complete the project (expenses are your responsibility)
- You are aware of a resource person outside the classroom who may be able to help you.
- After your proposal is approved, then begin work on the plan. The plan will be submitted and discussed at your second conference.
- All work must be original. Do not plagiarize.
- All work must be cited.

Changes to projects will not be accepted after the first week of school in your senior year. If you wish to make a change, a new proposal needs to be handed in or emailed to prayx@gnasd.com.

The Written Report and Presentation

Written Report

- Each student must have a written report.
- The report should be submitted in a presentable form
- If you are doing a project other than a "research paper", your project MUST contain evidence of progress (photographs showcasing your work from start to finish, videotape, portfolio)
- The research paper must be at least five full pages.
- Identify appropriate resources
- Gather, organize, interpret and present information or data
- Analyze and evaluate the importance, value or impact of the project
- Draw conclusions from the information or data gathered
- The project may result in at least one of the following, but not limited to:
  - Brochure
  - Woodworking piece (chair, cabinet, clock)
  - An agriculture crop area
  - A videotape (you helped organize an event at a nursing home or a church and taped the final event)
  - Display poster, summarizing hypothesis and findings of an experiment
  - Website you designed
  - Art portfolio

Report *MUST* Include

- Follow the MLA format
  - a. Title Page
  - b. Table of Contents
  - c. Acknowledgements
  - d. Proposal
  - e. Contents of Research Paper
  - f. What I learned section
  - g. Citation Page

What Your Submissions Should Demonstrate

- Represent your own work
- Be neat and organized
- Demonstrate the use of skills and knowledge related to your project
- Demonstrate the ability to research, prepare a plan of action, follow through with a plan and come to a "HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL" or "SUCCESSFUL" conclusion

Oral Defense of Project and Display
- You must defend your project before a faculty committee of three at a prearranged time and location
- You must be present during one entire period with your project/report. At this time, the faculty review committee will assess your materials and you should be able to answer any questions
- You must use at least one visual aid that may include:
  - PowerPoint
  - Overheads
  - Picture Boards
  - Audio Tapes
  - Portfolio or album of photographs
  - Props from the profession
  - DVD podcast/vodcast

In the oral presentation/performance/demonstration, the student will
- Comprehensively present the content of the study
- Deliver an organized presentation
- Demonstrate effective speaking skills
- Utilize visual material to enhance the presentation
- Answer questions posed by committee concerning the project

Due Dates for Submission of Report and Project
- Submission and presentation dates will be selected by a lottery system in the junior year. You will have at least 6 months to complete your senior project.
- Students may volunteer to present the senior project in September or October.
- All research papers must be submitted when you present your project.
- Senior Project presentations will be from November 1 to March 31 of the senior year.

If a student receives an evaluation of "Not Yet Successful", the student will be responsible to do make-up and remediation in order to complete the project in a timely manner and meet the requirements for graduation.

Rules to Writing the Research Paper

Formatting Rules
- Research papers should always be typed
- Use only 8 ½ x 11inch white paper.
- Double-space your entire paper.
- Use 1 inch margins on the top, bottom, left, and right
- Use 12 point print in a professional font such as Times New Roman
- Your last name and numbers pages consecutively in the upper right-hand corner, one-half inch from the top and flush with the right margin. (Example: Smith 1)
- Paragraphs should be indented ½ inch
- Use either <u>underlining</u> or *italics* in your paper to indicate titles of books. Be consistent throughout.
- Staple your completed paper in the top left corner. Do not use a folder or binder.
- In the top left corner of the first page only, of your research paper, enter your full name, instructor's name, senior project, and the date. This information should be double- spaced.
- The title for your paper should be centered on the line below the header. Capitalize the first letter of each significant word in the title. Double-space, indent, and begin your paper.

*Steps to Complete the Senior Project

1. Choose an advisor
2. Compete Appendix A Part I and II and submit it to Mrs. Pray
3. Work on your project
4. Write the rough draft and turn it into your advisor
5. Work on the final copy of the paper
6. Present your project and your research paper on the date of your presentation.

Senior Project Ideas

- Develop a novel- related project (write a novel)
- Write, perform, and evaluate an original dramatic production
- Prepare a presentation that demonstrates a relationship between architectural design and geometry
- Prepare a "History Day" project
- Organize and present a fashion show
- Create a collection of memories of local elderly residents
- Design a Web page to publish original art work of students
- Design costumes for a stage production
- Create a landscape design for a neighborhood facility
- Design and organize an art festival
- Develop and execute a tutoring program
- Organize a career day
- Organize and execute a school beautification project
- Plan and organize a major school wide event
- Create a video about physical fitness and health issues
- Coordinate a service for a nonprofit project
- Plan, organize, and execute an environmental improvement project
- Design and build a fitness trail.
- Organize a community festival
- Plan and operate a student store
- Restore a car
- Develop a unique computer software application
- Design and manufacture and original computer game
- Create an original architectural design
- Create and perform an original music composition
- Compile and annotate a photographic portfolio
- Plan and run a golf tournament
- Research and create a thorough visual representation of a family tree and a demonstration of how it was created
- Design and create an original piece of clothing
- Organize a student concert/art show
- Design and paint a mural for the community
- Write, illustrate, and publish a children's book
- Write and publish a children's book on a foreign language
- Conduct a peer-tutoring project
- Write, direct, and perform a children's theater production
- Conduct a mock trial for a social studies class.
- Create a home safety manual
- Design a science experiment and compete in PJAS
- Organize and implement a computer class for the elderly
- Create an international or ethnic festival

Senior Project Proposal
Appendix A-1

Please print your answers legibly. Use a separate sheet of paper to complete Part II.

Part I
Student's Name: _____

For all group projects, list additional member below:
(Both group members must have the same advisor)

    1.   _____

Each group member must submit his/her own proposal and research paper.

Home Address: _____

_____

Home Telephone # _____

Cell Phone # _____

Email Address _____

Advisor's Name _____

Date: _____

Advisor's Signature:

_____

Student Signature:

_____

Parent/Guardian Signature & Date:

_____

Appendix A Part II

The Proposal

Thoroughly describe the purpose and content of your senior project. Use the questions below as a guideline to complete the proposal. Refer to the senior project packet for further directions.

- What experiences do you already have related to this project?
- What would you like to learn through doing this project?
- Explain your research topic, possible thesis statement or essential questions you will explore and some possible resources you will use.
- How will you complete this project? What specific steps will you take to prepare for this project?
- How will you present your project?

Appendix A parts I & II should be completed at the same time and given to Mrs. Pray.

Project Topics cannot be changed after September 7, 2010.

All proposals will be reviewed by a committee!

APPENDIX B
ADVISOR INTERIM CALCUATION REPORT- PROCESS COMPONENT

Student Name: _____   HR: _____

Faculty Advisor: _____   Date: _____

Project Title: _____

	Activities:	Meeting Dates

1. Discussion of Topics and Contract   _____

2. Topic approved and Contract signed   _____

3. Preliminary research bibliography, notes
   technology plan.   _____

4. In-Depth Research   _____

5. Written Rough Draft   _____

6. Oral Presentation   _____

7. Written Component   _____

8. Oral Presentation/Exhibition presented   _____

9. Project Requirements Completed   _____

10. Final Assessment   _____

APPENDIX C
OUTLINE/ACTIVITY LOG

Student Name: _____   HR: _____

Advisor: _____   Date: _____

Project Title: _____

Keep an ongoing account of your activities by completing the log. Present the log with
evidence of your activities to your advisor at your regularly scheduled meetings. Your
advisor must initial the log as part of the validation process.

Date	Activity	Approximate Time Spent	Advisor's Initials

Every member of a group must complete the activity log.

_____   _____
Student Signature   Faculty Advisor Signature

APPENDIX D
SELF-ASSESSMENT

Student Name: _____   HR: _____

Advisor: _____   Date: _____

Project Title: _____

	Unacceptable	Improvement Needed	Acceptable	Proficient	Distinguished
I. Appropriateness of Project: Selection, meaning, relevance, clear statement, ingenuity, Originality, creativity.	1	2	3	4	5
II. *Organization and Preparation*: Structure, consistency, continuity, logic, sequence, clarity	1	2	3	4	5
III. Thoroughness And Depth: Comprehensiveness, focus, time commitment, critical thinking, personal skills, citizenship	1	2	3	4	5
IV. Goal Definition: Challenging, purposeful, relevant	1	2	3	4	5
V. Overall Project Exhibition: Communicated appropriately, addresses original goal, demonstrates comprehension	1	2	3	4	5