

Hey, WHS Seniors!

Got dreams?

Want an opportunity to get started on them?

How about applying for the SENIOR INDEPENDENT PROJECT!

What is the Senior Project?

A limited number of qualified WHS seniors work independently outside the classroom during fourth quarter on a project of their own choice and design. If selected, instead of attending some or all classes during fourth quarter, you would spend up to 30 hours a week for six weeks (5 hours a week for each class dropped) working on an internship, volunteering at a non-profit organization, learning a new skill, or researching an area of personal interest. A successful project will incorporate vocational exploration, volunteer service, and/or education as you go outside the academic setting to fulfill a personal goal and/or passion. The purpose is to allow you, as a graduating senior, to become more independent and responsible as you complete your high school career. An added bonus: it just might change the course of your life!

Say I get selected...what can I expect?

- A commitment of anywhere from 5-30 hours a week to be spent on the project, depending on how many courses you intend to drop
- A weekly meeting, usually on Monday with a faculty advisor at WHS
- Regular weekly contact with an expert in your field, an “outside advisor” who has agreed to mentor your work on the project and supervise your progress
- A weekly journal reflecting your progress, to be submitted to the program’s co-directors (and also to your English teacher, if that is one of your dropped courses)
- A final reflective paper looking back on your project as a whole
- A culminating oral, visual, and/or performance component at the end, as you share your results in a shared “presentation night”
- A lot of independence and self-directed hard work...and the pride and personal fulfillment that come with both!

“I hear and I forget, I see and I remember. I do and I understand.” --Confucius

What's the timeline for senior projects?

- **It starts right now!** Consider what you might want to do and then find a person or group who will be able to advise you on your project or help you set up an internship. Bring ideas and questions to Mrs. Wolfson or Dr. Shellito as you research possibilities. This is a crucial time to network and explore possibilities that Wayland--and the world beyond--have to offer.
- **Mandatory Informational Sessions** will be announced for the end of January or beginning of February each year. If you even think you might like to apply, you must attend one of these sessions. We will discuss the application process as well as details of what makes a successful project. Note that certain courses cannot be dropped--among them AP classes, some Business classes, Financial Literacy, and all Performing Arts classes, since they have their own culminating spring projects. Check with your teachers.
- **Proposal Workshops:** We'll be available to help you craft your ideal proposal a week or two before the applications are due.
- **Application Submission:** The application must be submitted to one of the co-directors, with all required signatures, by the announced due date each year, usually around mid-February.
- **Selection:** Proposals will be reviewed by a faculty selection committee and the successful applicants will be notified in March so they can finalize their arrangements.
- **Project work** will begin the first day of fourth quarter, in April, and continue for six weeks. (You are not expected to work on the projects during school vacation week.)
- **Final Presentations:** You will share your achievements with family and friends on Wednesday night of the last week of school for seniors, and will bring in some visuals to share with other WHS students during 4th block on Thursday of that week.

What have past seniors done for their senior projects?

- Over the years, various students have built a boat, built skateboards to sell, made videos, created phone apps, coded computer games, started a jewelry making business, learned a new instrument, learned a new language, staged solo and group musical and/or dance performances, sound-engineered CDs, experimented with ceramics and glazing techniques, written music and poetry, learned new computer skills, started a band (Aer), researched family history, learned to choreograph Irish dances, researched and practiced yoga, learned to sew historically accurate costumes, designed clothing, learned to cook, developed photographic skills, created a fashion line and book, started a compost program, researched and given presentations on Asperger's Syndrome, built a garden for WHS, and brought to fruition many more creative ideas.
- Internships and volunteer possibilities have included working in a broker's office, in a classroom, on a police beat, in a PR firm, in a fashion marketing company, and in an auto body shop. The sky (and your desires and imagination) are the limit!

Who can I talk to for more information? The **co-directors for 2014-15** are

Mrs. Wolfson (barbara_wolfson@wayland.k12.ma.us) in the Academic Center

Mrs. Shellito (barbara_shellito@wayland.k12.ma.us) in the English Office