



# Capstone Experience

Norwalk Public Schools

BOE Presentation

May 7, 2019

# Brief Background of Capstone at NPS

The background image shows a community event. In the center, a large, wrapped gift is being held, decorated with yellow and pink streamers. A young girl in a red shirt is smiling on the left, and a young boy in an orange shirt is smiling in front of the gift. On the right, a woman in a pink shirt and glasses is smiling. In the background, other people are visible, including a man in a red and white striped shirt and a woman in a purple shirt with 'WE'RE O' and 'MO' visible. The setting appears to be outdoors near a chain-link fence.

## 2016-17 Capstone Development Team

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Lisa Strom  
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## 2018-19 Capstone Development Team

Karen Amaker  
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## **Capstone Mission Statement**

NPS graduates possess the knowledge, skills, mindsets, and competencies to perform, compete, and succeed in a variety of contexts. Graduates connect learning to real-world application while developing the attributes needed for success after high school.

# Overview

The capstone is a culminating experience that provides students with the opportunity to:

- independently develop essential skills and knowledge in an area of talent or interest
- demonstrate learning, growth, and progress toward proficiency or mastery through a public presentation
- One credit (pass/fail) awarded for high school graduation



# Structure

## How/when will students complete their capstone projects?

- **Pathways**

- Pathways will offer unique capstone opportunities built into specific courses or programs (EMT certification, for example, could be a Medical Academy capstone)
- Advisor selected within pathways monitors progress and approves final product

- **Capstone Seminar Course**

- Students elect to register or are registered by counselors
- Course curriculum is designed to offer additional support for students
- Course instructor monitors progress and approves final product
- Letter grade and credit assigned for course

- **Independent Study**

- Written proposal
- High level of self-directed learning
- Advisor monitors progress and approves final product

# Capstone Sequence

## Grade 9

**What:** Students are introduced to:

The transition to high school, how to be reflective, the 21st century skills that NPS values, and general expectations for Capstone

**How:** Embedded lessons in Freshman Seminar, Workplace Learning, Foundational Pathway courses, and/or Advisory

## Grade 10

**What:** Students complete benchmarks on their digital platforms

Students complete proposals in the spring

**How:** Embedded in advisory and/or pathway courses

## Grade 11

**What:** Students complete benchmarks on their digital platforms

May start their Capstone Internships

Students may present their final capstone for assessment

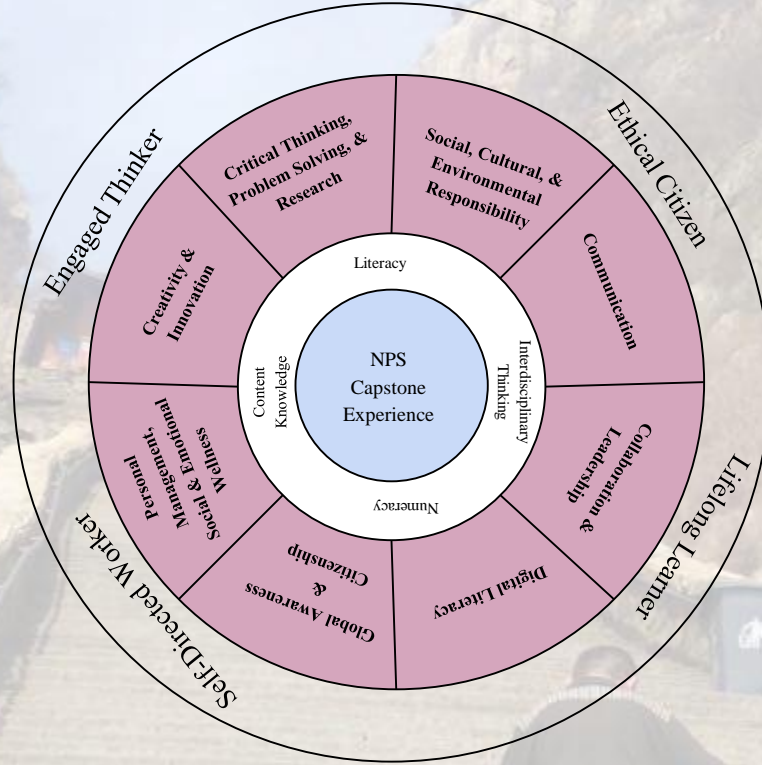
**How:** Embedded in advisory and/or pathway courses; Capstone seminar course

## Grade 12

**What:** Students are completing capstone

Students present their final capstone for assessment

**How:** Embedded in a pathway, a Capstone seminar courses, or independently



# Genres: Problem-Solving, Internships, Research-based, Creative/Performance

## Problem Solving

Capstones in this genre seek to find a solution to a real-world problem. These may be connected to a variety of disciplines.

Problem-based projects may focus on:

- Civic engagement
- STEM
- Design
- Business/economics





# Internship

- Real-world experience, working under the supervision of a mentor. Application of the knowledge and skills a student has gained during their secondary education. A reflection of an interest a student has developed during high school Minimum of 150 hours

## Internship partners may include:

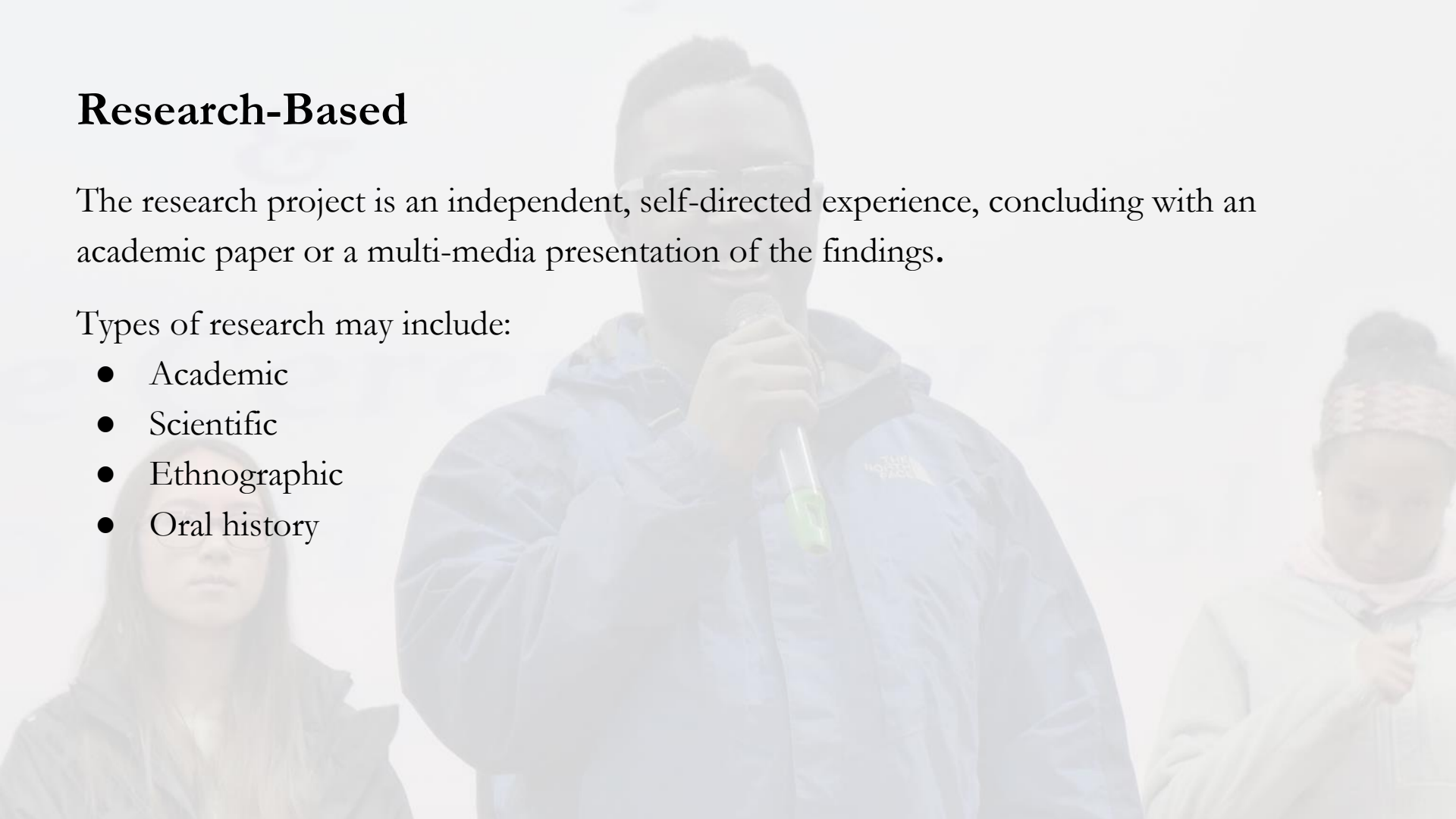
- Industry
- Government
- Educational
- Health Sciences / Medicine
- Non-profit

# Research-Based

The research project is an independent, self-directed experience, concluding with an academic paper or a multi-media presentation of the findings.

Types of research may include:

- Academic
- Scientific
- Ethnographic
- Oral history



## Creative / Performance

This genre of capstone requires students to produce an original creation that demonstrates the technical accomplishments and interests of the student.

A creative project may include:

- A musical recital
- Production of original art (painting, photography, sculpture, musical or literary composition)
- Dance or theatrical performance
- Screenplay or film
- Collection of creative prose or poetry

# Timeline

## Spring/Summer 2019

- NPS partners with Skills21
- Design required 9<sup>th</sup> grade lessons
- Select digital platform
- Design Capstone proposal process
- Develop teacher training
- Capstone committee develops Capstone Guidebook

## Fall 2019

- Capstone PD for all high-school teachers
- High school-level teams identify and articulate capstone opportunities within pathways
- Introduce Capstone requirements in advisory



A group of young women in traditional Japanese attire, including kimonos and haori, are clapping and smiling. They are wearing white collared shirts under their traditional clothing. The background is slightly blurred, suggesting an indoor setting with other people.

# Timeline, cont.

## Spring 2020

- 2020-21 Program of Studies reflects Capstone Seminar course

## Summer 2020

- Curriculum development for Capstone Seminar course

## Spring of 2023 (current 9th graders)

- First NPS class earns capstone credit!



Thank you!