Capstone Experience

Norwalk Public Schools
BOE Presentation
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Brief Background of Capstone at NPS

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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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 9</th>
<th>Grade 10</th>
<th>Grade 11</th>
<th>Grade 12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>What:</strong> Students are introduced to:</td>
<td><strong>What:</strong> Students complete benchmarks on their digital platforms</td>
<td><strong>What:</strong> Students complete benchmarks on their digital platforms</td>
<td><strong>What:</strong> Students are completing capstone</td>
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<tr>
<td>The transition to high school, how to be reflective, the 21st century skills that NPS values, and general expectations for Capstone</td>
<td>Students complete proposals in the spring</td>
<td>May start their Capstone Internships</td>
<td>Students present their final capstone for assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>How:</strong> Embedded lessons in Freshman Seminar, Workplace Learning, Foundational Pathway courses, and/or Advisory</td>
<td><strong>How:</strong> Embedded in advisory and/or pathway courses</td>
<td><strong>How:</strong> Embedded in advisory and/or pathway courses; Capstone seminar course</td>
<td><strong>How:</strong> Embedded in a pathway, a Capstone seminar courses, or independently</td>
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**Capstone Sequence**
NPS Capstone Experience

Engaged Thinker
- Critical Thinking
- Problem Solving
- Research

Ethical Citizen
- Social, Cultural, & Environmental Responsibility

Communication
- Leadership
- Collaboration

Numeracy
- Global Awareness

Literacy
- Content Knowledge

Creativity & Innovation
- Writing & Research
- Presentation

Self-Driven Work
- Global Awareness
- Digital Literacy

Interdisciplinary
- Leadership
- Collaboration

NORWALK
Public Schools
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 9th 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
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!