



Foxborough Public Schools

FOXBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS 02035

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT
FOXBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL
120 SOUTH STREET
FOXBOROUGH, MA 02035
TEL: (508) 543-1620
FAX: (508) 543-1670

September 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians of the Class of 2017:

Foxborough High School is excited to introduce the fourth year of the initiative for our seniors entitled Senior Project. The Senior Project is a creative, yet structured, deadline-oriented program that is graded and added to a student's transcript. It presents an opportunity for students to work with professionals in the community to gain "real-world" experience and information, using inter-disciplinary approaches, while working on a project outside the traditional classroom. It is a way for students to give back to the community. It is a commitment that must be taken seriously. Projects must have substance and students must have motivation to complete their projects successfully. Resourcefulness, independence and the ability to learn are traits measured by this program.

Why Participate: Senior Project gives students an opportunity to explore a vocation or a vocational interest. It helps students establish skills in time management, self-direction, and accountability. It encourages them to give something back to the community, and gives them an opportunity to apply knowledge in a practical way or demonstrate proficiency in a creative way. It is a fitting conclusion to students' high school educations because the students can demonstrate accumulated skills in critical thinking, research techniques, time management, problem-solving, human interaction, organization, writing, and verbal communication.

If you and your son/daughter would like to find out more about the Senior Project, please attend the informational meeting on Thursday, **September 22, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.** in the room 122. We're looking forward to speaking with you about this opportunity.

If you have any questions, please contact Ellen Pillsbury at (508) 543-1620, ext 55409.

Sincerely,

ESP
Ellen Pillsbury
Career Specialist

WHAT IS Senior Project?

Senior Project is a creative, yet structured, deadline-oriented program that is graded and added to a student's transcript. It presents an opportunity for students to work with professionals in the community to gain "real-world" experience and information, using inter-disciplinary approaches, while working on a project outside the traditional classroom. It is a way for students to give back to the community. It is a commitment that must be taken seriously. Projects must have substance and students must have motivation to complete their projects successfully. Resourcefulness, independence and the ability to learn are traits measured by this program.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

OVERVIEW

Interested seniors are invited to attend an informational meeting during which the specific requirements are explained. Students must attend this meeting to be considered candidates for acceptance into Senior Project. They are asked to consider / brainstorm ideas / options for projects and asked to contact potential Career Advisors. The student and the Career Advisor develop the project together and each student submits a formal proposal to the Senior Project Facilitator and Assistant Principal for review. Many proposals are returned for revision and re-submitted for final approval. Occasionally, a project is denied. Team projects are discouraged, and, if approved, must be very comprehensive and provide substantial evidence that they need two people to meet project goals. An approved proposal does not guarantee acceptance into the program. No proposal will be accepted that does not meet specific established criteria. In addition to an accepted proposal grades, class attendance, school absences / tardies, and behavioral / disciplinary records are taken into account before final acceptance is granted. Once accepted each student is required to keep a reflective journal and timesheet that will be submitted weekly. At the conclusion of the project the student submits a written summary and gives an oral presentation to a team who grade the entire project.

GRADES / AP REQUIREMENTS

In order to qualify for Senior Project students must have a seventy-five (75%) average in each course and must obtain written approval from each of his/her teachers. If a student does not have approval from each teacher regarding grade, attendance, and/or the teacher feels the student would benefit more by remaining in class, the student cannot be considered a candidate. Students who are taking multiple AP classes, may struggle balancing school commitments and senior project requirements. Students enrolled in AP courses must attend those classes, complete required work for each, take the AP exam(s), and at the discretion of the AP teacher, may be required to attend those classes through the end of the school year.

REPORT CARD

If a student is selected to participate in Senior Project, he/she will work on it during 4th term. Except for AP students, the Senior Project grade will be the student's only 4th term grade. AP students will receive a 4th term grade for their AP course(s) in addition to the Senior Project grade. The Senior Project grade is not factored into students' Grade Point Averages (GPA).

STUDENT HANDBOOK/MIAA

While participating in Senior Project students must abide by the rules and regulations set forth in the FHS "Student Handbook", and if participating in sports, must abide by MIAA Rules and Regulations.

WITHDRAWAL/TERMINATION

If deadlines are not met and meetings not attended, students will not be allowed to continue in the selection process and will be considered “withdrawn” from the program. Students may withdraw from the program without penalty until the first day of 4th term, the day they are expected at the project site. However, once committed to Senior Project at the start of 4th term, students are not allowed to withdraw from the program. If a student is terminated from the program for non-compliance, disciplinary and/or behavioral issues after the start of 4th term, the student cannot return to school and will receive an “F” for 4th term. Being terminated or withdrawing from the program harms relations with the community, contradicts the principles on which Senior Project was established, and compromises the integrity of the program.

Schedule 2016-2017

Thursday, September 22
Room 122, 6 p.m.

Information Meeting
Students/Parents

Friday, November 18
Guidance, 2 p.m.

Letter of Intent and Application Due
Parent Consent Letter Due

Friday, January 6
Guidance, 2 p.m.

Advisor Agreement Due

Wednesday, March 1
Guidance Office, 2 p.m.

Proposals Accepted/Denied or returned for revisions

Wednesday, March 8
Guidance Office, 2 p.m.

Revised Proposals Due

Friday, March 17
Guidance Office, 2p.m.

Acceptances-meeting in the auditorium
Teacher Releases Due

Monday, April 10

PROJECTS START

Friday, May 5
Guidance Office, 2 p.m.

Mentor Progress Reports Due

Friday, May 19

Projects Ends

May 22-26

Oral Presentations /
Summary / Journal / Timesheets
Mentor Final Evaluation

PARENTAL CONSENT FORM

TO: Parents/Guardians
FROM: Ellen Pillsbury-Senior Project Facilitator
SUBJECT: Parental Consent
DATE: -----

We are pleased that your son/daughter is considering participating in Senior Project. This is a unique opportunity for selected seniors to enrich their last term at Foxborough High School.

We anticipate that this program will not only be rewarding, but also provide a challenging learning opportunity. Therefore, we want you to be aware that in addition to an accepted proposal, the applicant must realize the following:

1. Due dates have been established and must be met.
2. Attendance is mandatory at scheduled meetings.
3. Attendance, tardiness, behavior and academic standing are all major criteria in judging the overall commitment of the applicant and acceptance into the program.
4. If during 4th quarter, a student is terminated as a result of poor performance , a behavioral problem or the student withdraws from the program, the student will receive a failing grade for Senior Project on his/her official permanent transcript. An explanation will be attached to this transcript detailing the reasons for this decision. The student WILL NOT return to school. The student WILL NOT receive the percentage of apportioned credits. Loss of these credits could have an impact on graduation.
5. While participating in Senior Project, students are expected to abide by the rules and regulations set forth in the "Student Handbook."
6. Students may continue to participate in co-curricular activities and sports. Those involved in sports must abide by the MIAA rules and regulations.
7. Students on IEP's/504's may continue to receive these services.
8. FHS cannot directly supervise each student on a daily basis while participating in Senior Project and is not liable for any injuries sustained as a result of the project.
9. Students cannot receive any compensation from the project site or from mentors.

We feel that it is essential that you be made aware of these policies and standards at the beginning of the project. Your signatures below will indicate this. If you have questions, please contact Ellen Pillsbury, Senior Project Facilitator at (508) 543-1620 ext. 55409. This letter, signed, must be submitted by the deadline set.

Parent Name (print)

Student Name (print)

Parent Signature

Student Signature

SENIOR PROJECT APPLICATION

Directions: Please fill-out form **completely**. Submission of the form is your formal application to participate in the Senior Project. Return to Mrs. Pillsbury **on Friday, November 18, 2016**. If not received at this time, you will be eliminated as a possible candidate.

Student Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Project Name: _____

Project Site: _____

Career Advisors Name: _____

Career Advisors Address: _____

Business Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Attach a copy of your schedule for Semester 2.

My signature below indicates that, if my project is accepted, I accept the responsibility for carrying it out successfully, and will abide by the guidelines for senior project and school rules while engaged in this project.

Student Signature

Date

This is an example of the letter of intent

Samantha Strong
8 Funny Lane
Foxborough, MA 02035

November 14, 2016

Mrs. Pillsbury
Career Specialist
Foxborough High School
120 South Street
Foxborough, MA 02035

Dear Mrs. Pillsbury,

The reason I am choosing to participate in this project is because I see it as a huge opportunity. To be able to spend whole days, instead of just one hour at the middle school would be amazing. I have completed DPP1, DPP2, Portfolio, and a Pottery class. I now feel qualified to take on new projects, such as this one. Helping out in an art classroom is something within my abilities, and I truly believe I do a good job already. I have a clear understanding of their curriculum already, and being there all day will allow me to get so much more done. I work with kids in many other after school programs, so I believe that I can easily relate with them. Along with the middle school, I believe I may be of some assistance in the high school art program. Having completed all levels of our program I think my help would be useful. I am young enough that I can remember myself being where they are two, three even four years ago, and I can help them progress in their arts. I know exactly what their portfolios must include because I went through it myself. Being a senior I have been in their spot and believe I could offer some useful input.

My goals in this senior project are to establish the skills to become an art teacher. By the end I want to have an idea of whether I want to be a middle school art teacher, or a high school one. I want to maintain a good relationship with the middle school students, while also keeping a boundary. I want to be the teacher that knows everyone's names, even if they aren't my student anymore. I also want to come up with my own project for the middle school kids that will help them with "the basics". For the high school kids I want to help them with their portfolios. I will find those kids that truly want to pursue the arts and help them avoid the mistakes I did, while assembling a stellar collection of their work. Overall, I just want to make the students better artists and to feel confident enough to explore new ideas.

For my procedure I will be attending the middle school three days a week and the high school two days. I will follow the regular school hours depending on which school I am working at that day. I will be able to be with students all day rather than an hour which will help me be more involved. Every week I will look to get familiar with their new project and help them with it. I will look to learn names as well, which is always important. Although dealing with middle school kids is already difficult it is well worth it. I will find a way to get them interested in what they are doing, as well as introduce the high school art program in an exciting way.

Working with Mrs. Denyse and Mrs. Trice will help me have some idea of what age group I want to work with. Already having worked with middle school students, helping will be new to me. I may find I like older students better and will look to go that direction. I think this project is a great idea and will hopefully give me some ideas of what I want to pursue.

Sincerely,

Samantha Strong