

Colorado Graduation Guidelines Promising Practice

District/System	Greeley-Evans 6
School	University High School (public charter school)
Contact Information	
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Title of artifact	Senior Project Presentation for Juniors – University HS
Type of practice	Communications

Brief description of artifact

This presentation introduces juniors to the Senior Project: structure, goals, calendar, projects to avoid, posters, and the opportunity for juniors and adults to volunteer on Senior Project Presentation Day.

Brief description of the process resulting in the artifact

University High School has required senior projects for over 20 years. University High School has five pathway diplomas, and the senior project is required for all. Last year they revised the requirement to include more accountability and consistent quality. Items were developed to communicate changes in the project requirement to specific audiences.

Types of practices in the CDE Graduation Guidelines Promising Practices collection:

1. Communications, such as announcements to school community and business community
2. Implementation process plans, such as strategic plans and timelines
3. Implementation tools connected to local graduation requirements, for instance:
 - o Testing implementation (ACT, AP, ASVAB, CMAS, IB, PARCC, SAT), such as classes and retreats, administration procedures and agreements
 - o Capstone implementation, such as instructions and samples
 - o Concurrent Enrollment implementation, such as classes and agreements
 - o Career/academic assessment implementation (e.g., ACCUPLACER, COMPASS, Work Keys), such as administration procedures and agreements
 - o Industry Certificates implementation, such as samples
4. Local graduation requirements aligned with state guidelines, such as board policies
5. Regarding students with exceptionalities
6. Other: _____

“We should not judge people at the peak of their excellence; but by the distance they have traveled from the point where they started.”

-Henry Ward Beecher



Senior Project Structure



- Create a consistent implementation of the senior project across the school community.
- Ensure the quality and depth of the projects.
- Honor individual differences and eliminate ambiguity.
- Incorporate senior argumentative/analytical research paper.



- Provide a detailed timeline that will be adhered to by each Senior
 - Communicate effectively with seniors and their parents throughout the process
 - Parent meeting
 - Provide examples of documentation with improved Senior Project Packet
- Create accountability for all projects through Senior Boards
 - Transform the Advisor's role from judge to coach

Senior Project Calendar



April

- Early letter of Intent for summer projects

September

- Topic Selection Process

October

- Letter of Intent Due to Advisor (Reviewed by Faculty)
- Letter of Intent returned to students; Begin Approved Project

November

- Letter of Request to Mentor and Parent Consent Form Due (Both to Advisor)

December

- Begin Senior Project Poster
- Senior Project Poster Due to Advisor
- Conferences to clarify graduation options for students who have not met the above due dates

Senior Project Calendar

January

- Time to complete Senior Project

February

- Time to complete Senior Project
- Fieldwork Journal Check

March

- Spring Break- Possible time to work on project
- Fieldwork Journal Check

April

- Senior Portfolio Due and Presenta
- Optional Senior Project Night (At /
- Senior Project Portfolio Due to Advisor
- Juniors can submit early project letters
- Senior Boards





(Don't Do These)

1. Painting murals on the walls
 - a. Art can be created on canvases and donated to the school
 - b. **EXCEPTION:** Painting on the walls of a teacher's classroom.
2. Sports camps for kids
3. Organizational/traditional fundraisers i.e. plug and play fundraisers
 - a. Example: Kicks for the Cure, collection boxes in classrooms,
 - b. **EXCEPTION:** If a student has a significant/intricate/pivotal role in designing and implementing the fundraiser
4. School "improvement" projects
 - a. **EXCEPTION:** With approval of the director and if the advisor is willing to actively supervise ALL aspects of the project.

2015 Senior Posters

Photo of
posters

2015 Senior Posters



2015 Senior Posters



Volunteer Opportunity

Volunteers Needed!

- We need 15 more Junior volunteers to help with Senior Boards on April 20 from 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Juniors will serve as timers and will greet community volunteers.
- We are still accepting adult volunteers to serve on the boards from 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Volunteering is a great way to get in inside view of the process.

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