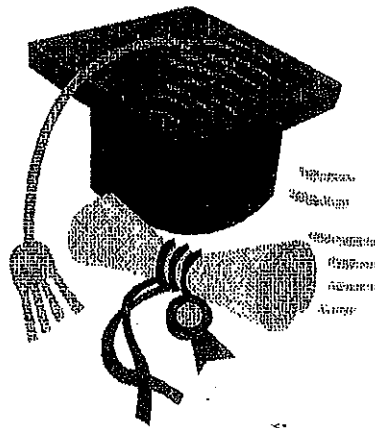


Massey Hill Classical High School

Graduation Project Handbook

What we have to
learn to do, we
learn by doing.

- Aristotle



Graduation Project Overview

What is Graduation Project?

The NC Graduation Project provides students with opportunity to connect content knowledge, acquired skills, and work habits to real world situations and issues. Through the graduation project process, students will engage various specific skills that include: computer knowledge, employability skills, information-retrieval skills, language skills – reading, writing – teamwork, and thinking/problem-solving skills. The NC Graduation Project consisting of four components (a research paper, product, portfolio, and an oral presentation) culminates in a student's final year of high school. Student engagement in the graduation project process and the completion of the graduation project demonstrates the integration of knowledge, skills, and performance:

NCDPI (<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/graduationproject/overview/>)

What is a Massey Hill Classical High School Graduation Project?

One of the graduation requirements at Massey Hill has always been a Graduation Project. We began with a Senior Project in 2001 and changed the name to Graduation Project with the state initiative. The components of the MHCHS Graduation Project include a research paper, a product (with community service), a portfolio, and a presentation. Each student must choose an area of study and complete the components based on that topic. During senior English, each student will identify a problem and work to provide a solution as he/she completes the different aspects of the project.

*See the examples on listed on the Project Ideas document.

Paper

Once the student has identified a problem (environmental, physical, societal, global, etc.), the students will write a research paper identifying the problem and presenting possible solutions. Students submit multiple drafts of the 7-10 page, MLA formatted research paper.

Product

With the assistance of a mentor, students compete a product tied to their topic of interest. Students are required to spend at least 12 hours learning, shadowing, creating, etc. When the students have completed their hours, they should have a product to show on presentation night. Some products are tangible items while others are more demonstrative. Students should also complete at least three hours of community service with a nonprofit organization relation to their topics.

Portfolio

The portfolio contains documentation of the student's work. The portfolio is evaluated by the teacher and available the night of presentation. The judges' panel will review it prior to student arrival.

Presentation

Students share their project experience with community members during the board presentations. Students have 10-15 minutes to present their projects using visual aids. In addition to the 10-15 minutes presentation, judges will ask the students questions based on the information presented in both the presentation and the portfolio. Judges will use the evaluation rubric to assess the quality of the presentation.

Project Ideas and Examples

Students will organize their entire project around a problem (social, environmental, political, etc.) and will attempt to provide a solution to that problem (or a solution to an aspect of the larger problem) in their product.

Examples

Problem: Legislation to allow fracking has been approved for North Carolina.

Research: What are the benefits and risks of fracking in terms of the economy and the environment?

Project: Develop and complete a risk/benefit analysis report of the impact of fracking from other parts of the country currently allowing fracking.

Community Service: Volunteer to help an environmental group or participate in a roadside cleanup.

Problem: The homeless population is increasing in our community.

Research: How does the response to homelessness in the US compare with other countries?

Project and Community Service: Organize food bags to feed the homeless, use plastic grocery bags to make homeless mats, work with the Salvation Army or Fayetteville Urban Ministry

Problem: The WWII generation is a dying generation and we are losing so many of their collective stories.

Research: How were American Women instrumental during the WWII war effort?

Project: Develop and complete an oral history project.

Community Service: Volunteer at a museum.

Problem: Due to budget cuts and the rising focus on STEM fields, arts education is often not a priority schools.

Research: The benefits of arts in education

Project: Implement an afterschool arts program or learn to play an instrument and keep a self-reflection journal on how music influences other areas of your life

Community Service: Volunteer with the Arts Council or a music teacher

Problem: As a nation, we consume too many processed foods, negatively affecting our health.

Research: What are the negative effects of too much processed food in a diet?

Project: Develop a meal plan for a month based on whole foods and within a reasonable budget. (Consider learning to make one or two of those meals.)

Community Service: Volunteer with Second Harvest Food Bank

MHCHS Graduation Project Proposal

Graduation Projects must be approved before a student begins working on the project. Type your proposal (following the format provided) and submit it to Mrs. Sanchez.

Student Name

MHCHS Graduation Project Proposal

Semester you have Senior English

Date of proposal submission

Part I: Identified Problem/Concern

This should be written in one concise statement.

Part II: Rationale

Write a paragraph explaining why this is a problem or concern and who is affected by it.

Part III: Planning

Create and complete a chart like one below to help guide your next steps. This should be a comprehensive list.

What do I know?	What do I need to learn?	What resources will I use? Consider people, places, sites, etc.

Part IV: Projection

Create a chart to project the cost of your Graduation Project.

Write a few sentences identifying and explaining any possible obstacles you foresee in the completion of the project.

Part V: Honor Statement

Write a statement committing yourself to work with integrity. Indicate that your work will be your own efforts and not those borrowed by any person, book, or site that is not given proper credit.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY SCHOOLS' HONOR CODE
for
NORTH CAROLINA GRADUATION PROJECT

Promoting academic honesty is a three-way partnership among the school, the student and parent(s).

This Cumberland County Schools Graduation Project Honor Code requires that students refrain from participating in the following unacceptable behaviors when completing the Graduation Project.

Cheating - Cheating is defined as a dishonest violation of rules or giving or receiving information for academic purposes so as to give or gain advantage.

Fabrication - Fabrication is unauthorized falsification, invention, copying of data, falsification of information, citations, or bibliographic references in any academic work.

Plagiarism - Plagiarism is representing someone else's work (including their words and ideas) as one's own or providing materials for such a representation.

Therefore, a student will abide by the following honor code statement:

"I will not cheat, fabricate or plagiarize any portion of my Graduation Project."

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

NORTH CAROLINA GRADUATION PROJECT
CCS Liability Waiver

I, _____, the undersigned Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of: _____ (Student) enrolled at _____ High School, acknowledge that I have read the explanatory letter about the NC Graduation Project and have reviewed the requirements and guidelines. I understand that the student will select the topic and project he/she wishes to complete. I understand that the project must be in some way related to the research paper and represent a "learning stretch". I fully understand that the selection of the project component is a decision made independently of the staff and the administration of the high school and that all consequences of the project choice, i.e. costs, safety, production, or experience, unless otherwise stated, rest solely with the student and parent/guardian. In the event that the student selects a project that includes expenditure, I acknowledge that this is the student's choice and not a requirement.

I further understand that if the student elects to undertake a project in which risk is involved, I will not hold the school or district responsible, and I do hereby release and waive and further agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Cumberland County Board of Education, the individual members, agents, employees, and representatives thereof, as well as the program's supervisors, from and against any claim which I, any other parent or guardian, any sibling, the student, or any other person, firm, or corporation may have or claim to have, known or unknown, directly or indirectly for any losses, damages or injuries arising out of, during or in connection with the student's participation in the Graduation Project.

Student: _____
(Printed Name)

Project Name: _____

Project Description: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

I have read the above statement and project description and accept/approve the same.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Dear Prospective Mentor,

Thank you for your willingness to work with our student. The Graduation Project is a key component of our curriculum at Massey Hill Classical High School. As juniors, our students choose a topic in which they have interest. They write a research paper to learn more about that topic. As seniors, they narrow their focus to a specific project. Some students take this opportunity to learn more about a possible career interest. Others learn a new language, instrument, or skill. Some of our students take this opportunity to really dig into a service project such as organizing a fundraiser or participating in Habitat for Humanity. All students have one requirement: They must prove a learning stretch. Our student has asked for your help because you are knowledgeable in an area which he/she wishes to learn more. You may have questions about your role in helping our student with this process.

The mentor serves as a guide for the student. A mentor will help the student determine a specific project that is related to his or her topic. The mentor will guide the student through the process of completing the project and evaluate the student's efforts at the end. Mentors also sign the student's time log. Students are required to spend a minimum of 12 hours learning about their topic and creating a project illustrating what they have learned. They will then spend an additional three hours of community service related to their topic. All students, no matter their topic, must have a tangible product to show during Presentation Night.

The amount of time a mentor spends with the student will vary depending on the project topic. For example, some students shadow their mentor to learn about a specific career field. They spend the majority of their time following the mentor and learning about the daily aspects of the career. Other students meet with their mentor to brainstorm ideas and get guidance. Then the student works on his/her own for a while to create what was discussed. The student brings back evidence and the mentor offers feedback. In both cases, the mentor signs off on all time worked on the project.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you again,

Caroline Sanchez, Graduation Project Coordinator

Massey Hill Classical High School

NORTH CAROLINA GRADUATION PROJECT
Mentor Statement

Student: _____

Topic: _____

Mentor: _____

Mentor Job Title: _____

Mentor Contact Information:

Address: _____

Home phone: _____ **Work:** _____ **Cell:** _____

E-mail: _____

- I understand the responsibility entrusted to me as a NC Graduation Project mentor.
- I will oversee the above student's progress during this graduation project.

Comments:

Signature of Mentor

Date

Signature of Student

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Signature of School Advisor

Date

NORTH CAROLINA GRADUATION PROJECT

Mentor/ Product Log

Student:

Topic:

Mentor:

Date and Time	Work Completed What did you do?	Recommendations or problems/successes	Was their contact with mentor? If so, what type?	Mentor Initials

I hereby verify that the above listed contacts are valid and true.

Mentor Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

NORTH CAROLINA GRADUATION PROJECT
Community Service Log

Student: _____ **Topic:** _____

Date	Description of Activity	Identify One Success and One Challenge	Hours Completed

Community Service completed at the following location:

Community service completed with the following non-profit organization:

Contact Person:

Name: _____ **Contact Number:** _____

Signature: _____

I hereby verify that the above listed hours are valid and true.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____