

***Massey Hill Classical
High School***

***The Graduation Project
Handbook
2018 – 2019***



***What we have to do, we learn by doing.
~Aristotle~***

***Massey Hill Classical High School
1062 Southern Avenue
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28306
Phone (910) 485-8761***

Parents and Seniors:

The Graduation Project is a requirement that in many ways is the culmination of twelve years of learning. It is the opportunity to demonstrate the student's skills in reading, writing, thinking, speaking, problem solving and organization. The components of the Graduation Project include: a word-processed research paper, a physical product, Community Service connected to the topic, a portfolio which shows the project's progression from start to completion and an oral presentation for a panel of judges from the community. To be successful, the student must complete and pass each of the components. ***The Graduation Project is a requirement and must be completed to receive a diploma from Massey Hill Classical High School.***

The Vision Statement of Massey Hill Classical High School is: "Enter to Learn, Go Forth to Serve." We are committed to Community Service and this component is an essential piece of the Graduation Project. Students are encouraged to connect with a non-profit organization whose work is related to the topic they have chosen. This will help students to explore life and career skills in a hands-on environment. Students will organize all of their experiences and documentation into a portfolio and a presentation. Students are required to use technology when presenting to the judges. We believe that all of these skills prepare students for the demands of life beyond high school.

The Graduation Project is unique to each student. Careful consideration must be given to the topic. Students should choose a topic of interest, one that will challenge you and provide a "learning stretch." In addition to the information provided in this handbook, your English teacher and Grade Level Advisor (GLA) will support you throughout this journey.

Best wishes,
The Graduation Project Committee

MHCHS 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/graduation_project/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.

Research Paper

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

Product

With the assistance of a mentor, students complete a product tied to their topic of interest. Students are required to spend **a minimum of twelve (12) hours** under the direction of the mentor. This time will include job shadowing, instruction and practice. When students have completed their hours, they should have a product to show on presentation night. Products may be tangible items or demonstrative.

Portfolio

The portfolio contains documentation of the student’s work. The portfolio is available the night of presentations to the judges’ panel for review prior to the student’s presentation.

Presentation

Students share project experience with community members during the board presentations. Students have ten to fifteen (10-15) minutes to present their projects, using visual aids, to the panel of judges. After the presentation, judges will ask questions of the student to assess the quality of the presentation.

MHCHS Graduation Project FAQ's / Concerns

How does the Graduation Project affect my grade?

Students complete the project with their Grade Level Advisor and English teacher during the senior year. The Graduation Project is a requirement for graduation and will be reflected on the transcript as a Pass or Fail.

What if a student is enrolled in English IV/ AP Literature with NCVPS?

The student will continue to work with the Grade Level Advisor to complete the project. Students must complete all components of the project.

What if a student transfers in during the school year?

If a student transfers in after the semester (when he/she is taking Senior English) has started, the project will be modified to fit the amount of time the student is in the course. Students will be responsible for each component of the project in a modified quantity.

What if a student does not meet the requirements for the Graduation Project?

All students are required to complete a graduation project. If a student fails to meet a component of the project by the deadline, he/she may write a letter of appeal requesting an extension. The student should address the appeal to the Graduation Project Committee and submit it to the Grade Level Advisor within two school days of the missed deadline. The student must explain why he/she was unable to meet the deadline. After the committee reviews the appeal, they may grant an extension. The student will be given a new deadline and opportunity to present. However, this presentation is for a reduced grade (20-30%) as detailed by the committee in their response to the appeal.

MHCHS Graduation Project FAQ's / Concerns, continued

Who can be my mentor?

The student should find a mentor who is knowledgeable in the topic he/she chooses. Mentors should be a professional connected to the area of interest. Mentors cannot be family members and must be at least twenty-two (22) years old.

How much time do I need to spend with my mentor?

The answer to this question will depend on the type of project. Students do not need to spend all documented hours working on the project with the mentor. Students may meet with the mentor, but may also communicate via email or phone conversations. However, all time logged must be signed by the mentor. See the mentor letter in the resources section of this handbook for more detail.

What if a student receives modifications through an IEP or 504?

The senior English teacher and Grade Level Advisor will meet with the student and the support staff to modify the project accordingly.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

The student's Grade Level Advisors can help students generate ideas and work through obstacles that may arise. Contact information for the Graduation Project Committee is listed below:

Principal: Dr. Pamela Adams-Watkins: pamelaadams@ccs.k12.nc.us

Assistant Principal: Mrs. Caroline Sanchez: carolinesanchez@ccs.k12.nc.us

Teacher: Ms. Melissa Hunter: melissahunter@ccs.k12.nc.us

Teacher: Mr. Brian O'Neal: robertoneal@ccs.k12.nc.us

Project Ideas and Examples

Students will organize the entire project around a problem (social, environmental, political) **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 county 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 the 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 the budget cuts and the rising focus on STEM fields, arts education is often not a priority in schools.

Research: What are the benefits of the 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 using the format below. **DO NOT DEVIATE FROM THIS FORMAT.**
- Submit it to your Grade Level Advisor during first month of school.

Format:

Student's 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? (People? Places? Sites?)	What is my plan? List as numbered steps.

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 and/or plagiarize any portion of my Graduation Project."

Student's Name

(Print): _____

Student's Signature:

_____ Date: _____

Parent's Name (Print):

Parent's Signature:

_____ Date: _____

This form was received by _____ ***on*** _____
(Grade Level Advisor) (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's Signature: _____

Date: _____

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

Parent or Guardian's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Massey Hill Classical High School

1062 Southern Avenue

Fayetteville, North Carolina 28306

Phone (910) 485-876

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 working with 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 twelve (12) hours learning about their topic and creating a project illustrating what they have learned. They will then spend an additional three (3) hours of community service related to their topic. All students 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 first 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.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Once again, we thank you.

Sincerely,
The Graduation Project Committee

**Massey Hill Classical High School
GRADUATION PROJECT
Mentor Statement**

Student:

Topic:

Mentor:

Mentor's Job

Title: _____

Mentor's Contact Information:

Mailing

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

E-mail Address:

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

Comments:

Mentor's Signature: _____ Date _____

Student's Signature: _____ Date _____

Parent or Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____

Teacher's Signature _____ Date _____

MHCHS GRADUATION PROJECT
Mentor/Product Log

Student: _____

Topic: _____

Mentor: _____

Date and Time	Work Completed (What did you do?)	Recommendations, Problems, Successes	Was there contact with mentor? If so, what type?	Mentor's Initials

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

Mentor's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Student's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

MHCHS GRADUATION PROJECT
Community Service Log

Student: _____ Topic: _____

Date and Time	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: _____ Date _____

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

Student's Signature: _____

Date: _____