Amity Regional High School

2021 Senior Interest Project

Introduction:

"Interest projects are generally designed to encourage students to think critically, solve challenging problems, and develop skills such as oral communication, public speaking, research skills, media literacy, teamwork, planning, self-sufficiency, or goal setting—i.e., skills that will help prepare them for college, modern careers, and adult life. In most cases, the projects are also interdisciplinary, in the sense that they require students to apply skills or investigate issues across many different subject areas or domains of knowledge." https://www.edglossary.org/capstone-project/

Overall process:
1. Students are asked to select a topic, profession, or social problem that interests them
2. Explore the subject, through research and other appropriate means.
3. Maintain a portfolio of findings or results
4. Create a final product demonstrating their learning acquisition or conclusions (a paper, short film, or multimedia presentation, for example), and give an oral presentation on the project to the Amity community at the Presentation Forum (set up like a science fair).

Examples:

- Writing, directing, and filming a public-service announcement that will be aired on Amity television
- Designing and building a product, computer program, or app to address a specific need, such as assisting the disabled
- Researching an industry or market, and creating a viable business plan for a proposed company that is then "pitched" to a panel of local business leaders

Logistics:

- Students who participate will come to Amity HS every morning and report to the library at 7:34am. Your day will be built around your research project.
- You will have access to the resources within Amity High School. You can access the media center specialists, a teacher (with prior arrangement), outside mentors

(with prior approval) and your interest project mentor (teacher or school counselor).
- There will be a log sheet in the Career Center, that you will be responsible for signing in and out each day.
- You will also be asked to give us feedback about the program and what you think should be added or changed in the following years.

Senior Interest Project FINAL Proposal-Due April 30th, 2021

Please answer the following questions:

1. Describe the topic you wish to explore in your research. Write a working proposal statement or your research question.
2. Describe your goals and objectives throughout the process.
3. Why have you chosen this topic for your Interest Project?
4. What prior experience do you have with this topic (either formal or informal)?
5. You will be responsible for the time and organization management of this project. Draft a schedule for yourself.

The Research Process/Expectations of Interest Project

Your *preliminary proposal* is due by April 1st, 2021.

1. Retrieve and evaluate sources/materials
2. Propose the project structure based on Amity's Academic Learning Expectations to your committee (counselor, principal, librarian) and receive approval to continue
3. Organize research, collect and annotate data, and refine thesis, as needed
4. Create an outline
5. Work to complete your project (i.e. write, revise, create, etc), including references
6. Create assessment rubric; submit for approval
7. Present to the committee

To accomplish this mission, we are committed to developing creative skills and critical thinking in all of our students through the following learning expectations:

Learning Expectations

- **Academic**
  1. Students will demonstrate the ability to effectively read a range of texts with varying complexity.
  2. Students will produce and distribute a variety of writing designed to entertain, inform, or argue, as well build and present knowledge derived from research.
  3. Students will speak and listen effectively in order to comprehend ideas and information, collaborate, and present knowledge and ideas to a variety of audiences.
  4. Students will demonstrate a command of language convention through effective use of language
  in writing and speaking, and through the acquisition and use of domain-specific and
  academic vocabulary.
  5. Students will make sense of problems and persevere when solving them.
  6. Students will use appropriate tools strategically to solve problems.
- **Social**
  1. Students will respect the rights, property and opinions of others.
  2. Students will regularly give to others unselfishly and be considerate and kind to all.
  3. Students will be aware of, and concerned for, the feelings of others and deal with others in   a kind and sympathetic manner.
  4. Students will demonstrate an ability and commitment to work collaboratively with others.
- **Civic**
  1. Students will exhibit personal integrity and ethical decision-making.
  2. Students will demonstrate social responsibility for the school environment by recognizing the impact of their decisions on others and themselves.
  3. Students will participate in meaningful activities within the school community.
  4. Students will demonstrate an awareness of their global responsibility to others and the environment.