

# Orange High School

## Senior Project

### Welcome Parents of the Class of 2017

We are excited that the class of 2017, your seniors, will be taking part in Senior Project, a tradition that began in the 1971-1972 school year. Senior Project is a practical learning situation whereby Orange seniors add to his/her formal education a greater awareness of the outside world through real life work experience, educational pursuits, service projects, and creative endeavors.

This year, students in the Excel TECC program will be exempt from the four week field requirement; however, those students will still be required to present an Exit Presentation. For these students, the Exit Presentation will focus on the content of the student's Excel TECC program.

### Purpose of Senior Project

The purpose of Senior Project is to expose seniors to experiences which are not a part of the typical classroom curriculum. Students will develop their skills in creation, collaboration and communication. Senior Project engages students with opportunities to pursue a rigorous educational interest, a community service opportunity, a career exploration, and/or a creative endeavor.

### Role of the Senior Project Advisors

An ideal Senior Project experience enhances a student's personal interests and his or her general intellectual curiosity while satisfying a graduation requirement. Our goal as Senior Project Advisors is to advise and guide seniors so they may create a personally valuable learning experience that serves as a capstone of a K-12 Orange education.

# Overview

## Timeline

Generally speaking, Senior Project has two parts: project design and project implementation. More specifically, Senior Project is a collaboratively designed, four week field experience, and an exit presentation scheduled and delivered during the fifth week of Senior Project.

**The Senior Project Field Experience is May 1 through June 2, 2017.**

## Eligibility

All seniors (with partial exceptions for Excel TECC students) are required by Orange City Schools to successfully complete a Senior Project. More information about Senior Project can be found in the Orange High School Student Handbook on pages 18-19.

## Individually or Group

Students may work individually or may work in a group of no more than four students. Each student must individually submit his/her own required materials throughout the Senior Project process. The Exit Presentation is the only item that may be submitted as a group.

## Location

Seniors may travel up to one hour to get to their destination for Senior Project. However, travel time is not included in the amount of hours required to complete for Senior Project.

- Location must be within an hour of Orange High School.
- Location may not be owned or managed by a relative.
- Community Sponsor cannot be employed by or supervised by a relative.
- If previously employed at the location, activities must be completely different from those done before.
- Students may not be paid for work during The Senior Project Field Experience.

# Community Participation

## Partnerships

Now with 40+ years of experience, we are keenly aware that Senior Project works because of the partnerships we have established. Without the dedication of the PTA, the Orange community, and those who sponsor our students, we would be unable to maintain the integrity of such a wonderful program.

## Sponsorships

The Senior Project experience is only possible because of the generosity of community members who volunteer to sponsor seniors during the four-week Senior Project experience. A Community Sponsor is the on-site manager/boss of the senior during the month of the project. If you or someone you know is interested in serving as a community sponsor, contact Marcy Fludine at 216-831-8600 x 2130 or by email at [seniorproject@orangecsd.org](mailto:seniorproject@orangecsd.org).

### **Role of the Community Sponsor:**

- To help the student design his/her project
- To supervise the student daily
- To provide expertise related to the nature of the project

### **Community Sponsor Restrictions:**

A Community Sponsor **cannot** be:

- a relative,
- employed by a relative, or
- supervised by a relative.

A Community Sponsor must be:

- qualified to provide the experience,
- reliable, and
- willing to follow the guidelines set by the school.

# Required Meetings for Parents and Students

## Parent Meeting

Parents are required to attend an informational meeting on November 1, 2016 in the Orange High School Auditorium at 7pm.

## Mandatory Senior Project Classes

Part of a student's grade and, subsequently, the credit for the course is tied to the mandatory attendance at Senior Project classes. These are classes -- just as a student's math and science class. *In that sense, these are not optional.* Excel TECC students only need to attend the Homebase classes.

November 11 Homebase 10:03am	Senior Project Class One: Introducing Senior Project 2017
December 7 7:30-9:00am	Senior Project Class Two: Finding a Community Sponsor
January 6 Homebase 10:03am	Senior Project Class Three: Defending the Senior Project Proposal
January 18 7:30-9:00 am	Senior Project Class Four: Mandatory meeting with Faculty Mentor
February	Proposal Defense: Students <b>will be assigned to a specific day and time.</b>
April 21 Homebase 10:03am	Senior Project Class Five: Senior Project Final Instructions

## Staying Up to Date with Senior Project Requirements

In order to be successful, students must stay up to date with all required assignments. All Senior Project information will be distributed during the mandatory Senior Project classes and through the student's school Gmail account. Students must check their school Gmail account regularly.

# Senior Project Defense

New for the 2016-2017 school year, seniors will orally defend their Senior Project Proposal. Students will be scheduled to present and defend their idea for a Senior Project in front of a panel of Orange High School faculty members. Therefore, the foundational work of the first semester and the third quarter (second semester) must be successfully completed to be able to successfully present a defense. In the past, students would submit a proposal to an advisory committee that they would never see. The defense allows the student, faculty and the administration to gain a deeper understanding of the proposal and the student's motivation for pursuing the challenge. In addition, this allows for a meaningful back and forth exchange of ideas, questions and answers.

**Senior Project Defenses will be held on Wednesday mornings in February 2017.**

# Senior Project Field Experience

The most exciting aspect of Senior Project is the field experience. By the numbers, seniors are required to complete 100 hours on project. That's five hours per day for four weeks. Seniors attend project Monday through Friday -- just like a typical school week. In some instances, students will complete fewer hours because of enrollment in AP testing, College Credit Plus, and varsity competitions at the regional and state level. Students are required to propose and maintain an accurate schedule. We require this to promote the importance of clear communication with the Community Sponsor, the school and the Senior Project Advisors. The Senior Project Advisors and the PTA partners randomly visit seniors to see students in action and count on the accuracy of the schedule. We also communicate directly with the Community Sponsor during Senior Project to maintain open lines of communication.

# Senior Project Exit Presentation

The Exit Presentation is the culminating activity of Senior Project. Seniors share their successes, frustrations, achievements and struggles on Senior Project with the Orange community. Taking place during the fifth week of Senior Project, seniors return to Orange High School to present the results of their project. This is a graded presentation open to students, faculty, parents and Community Sponsors.

# Senior Project as a Graduation Requirement

## Credit for Graduation

In 2014, the Orange Board of Education voted to make Senior Project a graduation requirement. Orange Seniors who are not partially exempted from the program due to an Excel TECC obligation, are required to successfully complete all aspects of Senior Project. Just like any class taken at OHS, there are assignments to be completed along the way. These assignments are all designed to fully engage the student, the parents/guardians, and the Community Sponsor in the process. By doing so, we ensure that all the stakeholders are aware of the obligations they have to this awesome experience.

## Semester Grades

Senior Project is graded using a Pass / Fail system. Typically speaking, passing is 80%. A grade will be issued *after the second quarter and again after the third and fourth quarter*. Again, no grade will be issued for the first quarter. Students who fail to successfully complete the required first semester work will jeopardize their ability to successfully pass the second semester. All of the activities that are assigned for students to complete are both time and quality sensitive. If either of these sensitivities are lacking, a Senior Project would likely fail and be impossible to defend.

## Closing

Senior Project is an exciting experience. We are thrilled to be maintaining such a wonderful tradition. With your help, we know that your student's success will pave the way for their peers to be able to have the same wonderful time. To help ensure this happens, we will provide clear instructions for each aspect of Senior Project, clear deadlines and clear expectations. Furthermore, students and parents are encouraged to ask as many questions as they wish. We are happy to answer.

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