

# LRHS Graduation Project

An Overview for  
Students and Parents



# POSITIVES OF THE GP

- Improves research techniques
- Teaches time management
- Stresses organization
- Encourages personal responsibility
- Develops interpersonal communication skills
- Enhances public speaking skills
- Builds confidence
- Utilizes “real world” employment skills
- Applies technology in a practical setting
- Ties student to community

# Graduation Project (GP)

---

Product

Portfolio

Paper

Presentation

# GP ADVISOR

- Will be a LRHS faculty member
- Will be student's guide and counselor for the GP
- Will meet with student monthly during junior and senior years
- Will help student meet deadlines
- Will initially approve student's product idea
- Will initially grade student's completed product
- Will grade student's portfolio

# SELECTING THE GP ADVISOR

- From April 29 through May 9:
  - Student may ask any teacher or media specialist to be his/her GP advisor.
  - Advisor does not have to be a former teacher.
  - Student and advisors will work together for the next two years!
- **IF A STUDENT DOES NOT SELECT AN ADVISOR BEFORE FRIDAY, MAY 9, ONE WILL BE RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO HIM/HER ON MONDAY, MAY 12.**

# PRODUCT

- Direct, logical extension of research topic
- Documented through photographic evidence
- Guided by a GP community mentor
- Visible application of knowledge
- Samples:
  - Performance
  - Experiment
  - Service opportunity
  - Teaching a class
  - Construction
  - Media



# PRODUCT EXAMPLES

- Teaching global warming to first graders
  - Lesson plan, coloring sheet, library book, trifold
- African rites of passage
  - Design costumes, choreograph dance, teach dancers to perform
- Music: from vinyl LPs to MP3s
  - Compose original music; record to LP and MP3; survey listeners to tell the difference

# GP COMMUNITY MENTOR

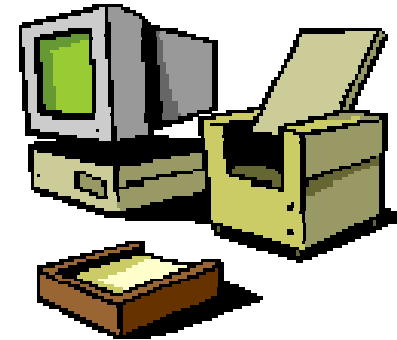
- Student should locate someone who is:
  - A non-LRHS staff member
  - A non-relative
  - At least 25 years old
  - An expert in topic
  - Willing to work with student for 15 hours
  - WCPSS approval to work as a volunteer
- Establish contact to begin working relationship

# PORTFOLIO

- Binder documenting the entire process
  - Record keeping
    - Forms
    - Letters
    - Photographs
    - Logs
- Copy of final paper
- Outline of presentation
- Personal reflections



# PAPER



- Inquiry based research paper (essential question)
- 5-7 pages
- Topic selection based on student interest
  - Begins in English class during junior year
- Guided by senior English teacher
- “Learning stretch” “The art of making great demands upon one’s abilities while gaining knowledge, comprehension, or mastery through experience or study.” Cabarrus County Project Graduation Handbook.

# PRESENTATION

- Summarize all parts of GP for a panel of judges
- Will be evaluated on public sharing of the final product
  - Trifold
  - Product
  - Time limit 8-12 minutes
- Focus on research experience
- Analyze the entire process
- Include self-reflection
- Answer questions from panel of judges



# REMEMBER!

- **From April 29 through May 9:**
  - Faculty advisor selection week
- **IF A STUDENT DOES NOT SELECT AN ADVISOR BEFORE FRIDAY, MAY 9, ONE WILL BE RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO HIM/HER ON MONDAY, MAY 12.**

# SOURCES

- Arthur, Sally, et. al. WCPSS Graduation Project Implementation Guide: A Handbook for WCPSS Faculty and Administrators. ed. Sherri Merritt, PhD. WCPSS. August 2007.
- “Graduation Project.” Athens Drive High School. 2007. 19 Mar. 2008.  
<<http://athensdrivehs.wcpss.net>>.
- “Graduation Project.” NC Public Schools: Department of Public Instruction. 2007. 19 Mar. 2008. <[www.ncpublicschools.org/graduationproject](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/graduationproject)>.
- “Graduation Project.” Sanderson High School. 2007. 19 Mar. 2008.  
<[http://sandersonhs.wcpss.net/grad\\_project/index.php](http://sandersonhs.wcpss.net/grad_project/index.php)>.