

**Granby Memorial High School**  
**Course Syllabus and Class Expectations**  
**Capstone – Ms. Touchette (Room 1224)**



**Course Description:**

CAPSTONE 923 CAPSTONE - 1 credit One Semester College Preparatory/Academic (Grade 12)

This required course is designed to measure the district mission. Students will hone research and presentation skills through taking one semester of Senior Capstone Project. Students will complete one paper and make a presentation to an appropriate audience of peers, adults and related professionals on a topic that has academic, social and community merit in order to demonstrate mastery of the mission: to become a powerful thinker, effective collaborator and compassionate contributor.

- Ms. LaPlante – assistance of research and presentation tools
- Mr. Stanwood – organization of outside experts
- Ms. Ranicar – coordination of presentations

## **GMHS Capstone Research Project**

“The Capstone Experience is designed to prepare high school students for lifelong learning and effective and productive citizenship through the opportunity to plan, complete and present a self-directed culminating project reflecting their personal interest. The Capstone Experience requires students to demonstrate the most important components of their K-12 learning.” [Gaulin, Ann and Marilyn Wagner-Jansson, Connecticut Assessment Forum, August 12-13 2010](#)

Essential Learning includes the following overarching components, each of which requires the understanding, application, and eventual mastery of subsets of measurable skills.

- Thinking critically and creatively
- Demonstrating flexibility and initiative
- Conducting analysis and research, including proper citation of references (print and web resources, interviews, etc.)
- Communicating ideas through multiple modalities
- Using technology effectively

# GMHS Capstone Overview & Requirements

The Capstone Project is comprised of several activities in each phase

## **PHASE I - Preliminary Planning (Weeks 1-4)**

Establish Google folders: This is where almost all your work will be kept in an organized manner such as; reflections, research, photos, work in progress will be kept.

Maintain a learning log – a journal of your activities and reflection of the process.\*

Submit a project proposal – must demonstrate a “learning stretch” and be personally useful and relevant to the student.

*Note: Completion and approval of Phase I activities is required prior to moving to Phase II.*

## **PHASE II - Research and Action (Weeks 5-16)**

Write a research paper on an approved topic of the student's choice.

Select one culminating activity to be done under the supervision of a community mentor

- **Career Focus** Explore a career of interest.
- **Service Learning** (Community/School Related) Complete a service-learning project that makes a concrete and visible impact in the school or community.
- **Personal Interest** (Performance or Problem Based) Pursue a topic of personal interest and develop a research thesis around this interest.

Every Research and Action Capstone requires:

- Selection of a community outside expert – a community member who has some expertise in the area of interest.
- Maintenance of a learning log\* – a journal of your activities and reflection of the process.
- Maintenance of a visual log of your progress.

## **PHASE III – Presentation and Evaluation (Weeks 16-18)**

- Give a fifteen-minute formal presentation on your project before a panel - may include an administrator, teacher, counselor, community member, parent and/or student.
- Submit an electronic Capstone portfolio – documentation on the student's journey and includes the project proposal, research paper, verification forms, and activity and learning logs. \*

For each phase, you will be introduced to a variety of lessons which review and/or introduce skills which will support your capstone journey.

These lessons include:

- Foundational research skills
- Advanced research skills
- Communication skills including interviewing, (face to face or on the phone) creating electronic correspondence, and successful logging of progress
- Presentation skills
- Basic Marketing/Target Audience identification
- Interpersonal and intrapersonal skills

## Capstone Grading Policy

Quarter (1 or 3)	Category	Percentage	Special note re late work
	Active Participation and Collaboration	10	n/a
	Shorter activities and exercises*, in-class work, at-home assignments	10	No late work accepted
	Maintenance of Google folders, sub-folders and documents etc.	10	No late work accepted
	Research materials, research information, (30-40 note cards) work cited, bibliography MLA #8 (10-12 resources; Noodle Tools)	40	No late work accepted
	Major Writing (Draft of research paper: 5-7 pages) Must be submitted through Turnitin	30	No late work accepted

Quarter (2 or 4)	Category	Percentage	Special note re late work
	Active Participation and Collaboration	10	n/a
	Production process; shorter activities and exercises*, in-class work, at-home assignments	30	No late work accepted
	Maintenance of Google folders, sub-folders pictures, videos, presentation & documents etc.	10	No late work accepted
	Major Writing (FINAL submission of research paper: 5-7 pages) bibliography MLA #8 Must be submitted through Turnitin	40	No late work accepted
	<b>Presentation</b>	<b>Counts as final exam</b>	<b>No late presentations No exemptions</b>
	Student Reflection	10	No late work accepted

\*includes establishment of and attendance at meetings, timely completion of forms, and demonstration of interview with expert

Q 1 = 40%

Q2 = 40%

Final Exam presentation = 20%