

Colorado Graduation Guidelines Promising Practice

District/System	Greeley-Evans 6
School	University High School (public charter school)
Contact Information	
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Title of artifact	Senior Project Improvement Presentation – University HS
Type of practice	Implementation process

Brief description of artifact

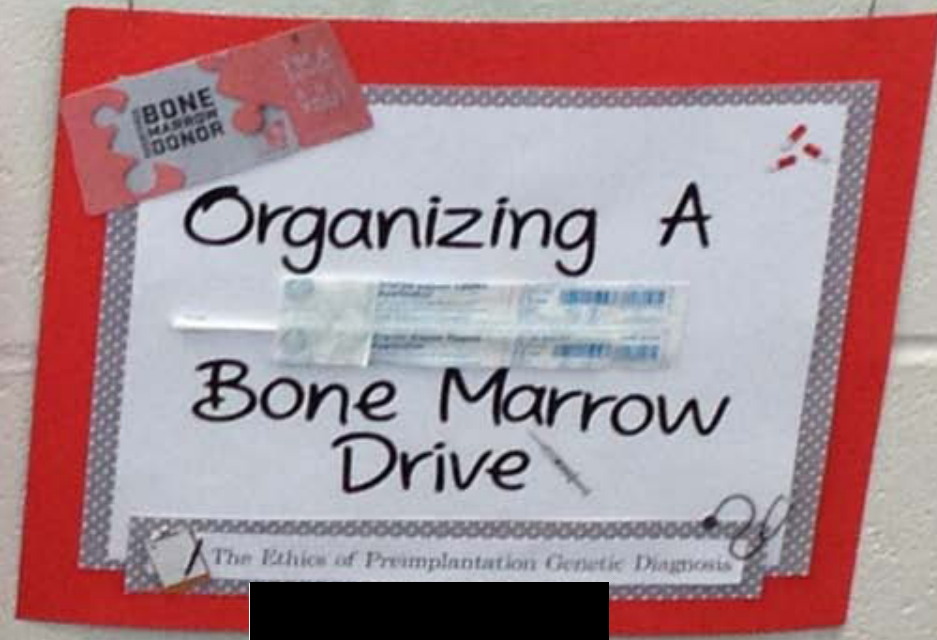
This presentation outlines the rationale, goals, timeline, and plan for the recent revision of the Senior Project graduation requirement.

Brief description of the process resulting in the artifact

University High School has required senior projects for over 20 years. University High School has five pathway diplomas, and the senior project is required for all. Last year they revised the requirement to include more accountability and consistent quality.

Types of practices in the CDE Graduation Guidelines Promising Practices collection:

1. Communications, such as announcements to school community and business community
2. Implementation process plans, such as strategic plans and timelines
3. Implementation tools connected to local graduation requirements, for instance:
 - o Testing implementation (ACT, AP, ASVAB, CMAS, IB, PARCC, SAT), such as classes and retreats, administration procedures and agreements
 - o Capstone implementation, such as instructions and samples
 - o Concurrent Enrollment implementation, such as classes and agreements
 - o Career/academic assessment implementation (e.g., ACCUPLACER, COMPASS, Work Keys), such as administration procedures and agreements
 - o Industry Certificates implementation, such as samples
4. Local graduation requirements aligned with state guidelines, such as board policies
5. Regarding students with exceptionalities
6. Other: _____



Senior Project Improvement

“Not that different – just better!”

-Holly

Rationale

- Create a more consistent implementation of the senior project across the community.
- Improve the quality and depth of the projects
- Remove ambiguity while honoring individual differences

“We should not judge people at the peak of their excellence; but by the distance they have traveled from the point where they started.”

-Henry Ward Beecher



Goal

To revise the Senior Project to accomplish the following:

- Provide a detailed timeline that will be adhered to by each Senior
 - More structure, detail, and scaffolding for each step in the process
- Communicate more effectively with seniors and their parents throughout the process
 - Parent meeting
 - Provide examples of documentation with improved Senior Project Packet
- Create accountability for all projects through Senior Boards
 - Transform the Advisor's role from judge to coach

Senior Project Timeline

September

- Senior Project Parent Informational Meeting (7:00 p.m. auditorium)
- Distribution of Senior Project Booklets, Topic Selection Process

October

- Letter of Intent Due to Advisor (to be reviewed by faculty)
- Letter of Intent returned to students; begin approved project

November

- Letter of Request to Mentor and Parent Consent Form Due (both to Advisor)

December

- Begin Senior Project Poster
- Senior Project Poster Due to Advisor
- Conferences to clarify graduation options for students who have not met the above due dates

January

- Time to complete Senior Project

February

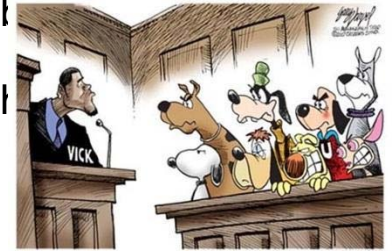
- Time to complete Senior Project
- Fieldwork Journal Check

March

- Spring Break- Possil project
- Fieldwork Journal Cl

April

- Senior Portfolio and Practice
- Optional Senior Project Night (At Advisor's Discretion)
- Senior Project Portfolio Due to Advisor
- Senior Boards



ThunderRidge Student Posters

Photo of posters

Photo of
posters

ThunderRidge
Student Posters

Photo of
posters

Photo of
posters

Two Year Plan

– 2014-2015:

- Updated Deadlines
- Posters
- Boards as final evaluation

– 2015-2016:

- Senior Argumentative/Analytical Research Paper
 - (Senior English Classes)
 - Update Paperwork (Continued from 2014-2015)
 - Refine Process

Proposed Review

- Revised Paperwork
- Clarifying Questions
- Concerns

Photo of
student