Classical High School
Research and Technology Seminar
Student Handbook

Fall Semester 2015

Overview

Mission
Classical High School, a dem crigh

Standards

The following local, state and national standards are aligned to the course requirements and final exhibition of student learning. These standards identify the key skills and knowledge critical for success in post secondary education, employment or service.

Classical High School 21st Century Learning Expectations
http://classicalhighschool.org/academics/

Academic

Communication (assessed in course)
> Students will read widely and critically understanding a variety of texts.
> Students will write and speak effectively with clarity and purpose in English and other languages.

Problem Solving (assessed in course)
> Students will utilize a variety of methods and resources to reason and think critically.
> Students will creatively solve problems by acquiring and applying new knowledge and skills.

Technology (assessed in course)
> Students will apply a variety of technology skills and tools to access information, analyze data, and communicate ideas and information.

Arts and Culture (*not assessed in course)
> Students will engage in and demonstrate an awareness of how elements of the arts and culture communicate values and perspectives of various social, political and economic systems.

Social and Civic

Topic Selection Guide

Before choosing a topic you should consider the following:

      Does the topic lend itself to meeting one of the approved research paper options (

Prohibited Topics (these topic have been overused and/or found to lack sufficient rigor)

        Abortion
        File Sharing
        Gambling
        Graffiti
        Hip-Hop
        Prostitution
        Steroids
        Video Games
        Legalization of Marijuana

Topic Ideas Interest Survey

To help you identify and decide on a topic that might be of interest to you, complete the attached survey and include as much detail as possible.

1. Within the next 5 years, what things do you hope to have accomplished?

2. What things would you like to be able to do better?

3. What do you wish you had more time for?

4.

Sample Topic Ideas

Research/Content Area	Possible Resource people or organizations
1. Fashion and social change	Fashion school program
2. Vietnam veterans	Local Veterans Assoc
3. Robotics	Company in field; make email connection
4. Musical arranging	Local music orgs
5. Adoption laws	Child centers and orgs.
6. Waste disposal and environment	Dept. Public Works; Dept. Envir. Safety
7. Art of silk screening	Design/printing company
8. History of sailing vessels	URI; local maritime
9. Hearing Impaired	AA for Hearing Impaired
10. Architecture	CCRI/URI
11. Stock Market	SBA; local investment companies
12. Homeless	Local shelters
13. Film/Photography	In school program
14. Cooking	Culinary programs; local restaurants
15. Children's Literature	Local library; elementary teachers
16. Travel	Travel agencies
17. Martial Arts	Karate School
18. Financial Planning	College Board, loan programs, etc.

19. Drunk driving/MADD

Making Contacts for Your Research Project and Exhibition

Before you make a contact with any outside organization or individual, you should prepare ahead of time. Whether it is through an email or a phone call, there are certain things you should consider:

Write down the key points of your research project; perhaps use the outline you have prepared

Be prepared to describe the topic, the key question or focus of your research

Why you are interested in the topic

Perhaps some interesting things you have learned so far

Why you have chosen that person or organization and how the information they might provide connects to your project and/or your exhibition

Remember- you are presenting the first impression of yourself and you are representing Classical High School

It usually best to use email whenever possible. Although not as personal as a phone call or letter, it may get you a quicker response.

Sample Email

Dear_____:

I am a student at Classical High School (in Providence, RI) and I am conducting a research project for my graduation requirement. I am writing to you because I am hoping that you might provide me with some expertise or knowledge about my topic.

My topic is _____
_____
_____
_____

(If you have been referred by s(e   a   e   b   o   v

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Sample Phone Call

When making a phone call, you need to be prepared with what to say if that person is not available at that time. It's probably best NOT to ask them to call you back because if they don't know who you are or why you are calling, they may not get back to you quickly and you'll have no way of knowing if they will. I suggest the following:

"Hello- Could I speak to Mr./Ms./Mrs._____?"
 (If you are not sure how to pronounce their name, ask an adult at school or home to help you).

The person answering may ask, "May I tell him/her who is calling?" State your name and that you are calling from Classical High School.
The person may ask you to say what you are calling about.

"I am doing a research project in _____ as part of my graduation requirement and I was hoping to speak with Mr._____ and was given his name from _____ (or " I learned of him through_____" as appropriate).

The person may ask t

Checklist for Writing a Research Paper

1.

Exhibition Planning and Preparation Checklist

Initial Planning and Preparations

Thank the panel for their time
Gather your materials and leave

When will I do my Exhibition?

First Semester students are tentatively scheduled for the end of the semester or early into the next
Your practice sessions will be held toward the end of the semester in your classrooms
ALL Exhibitions will be done on the date(s) assigned (TBD)
Mark your calendar now!!

Who will I present to?

A panel of judges comprised of teachers, parents and/or outside community members will hear your exhibition
They will receive training ahead of time and will judge your exhibition according to the rubric

What if I fail the Exhibition?

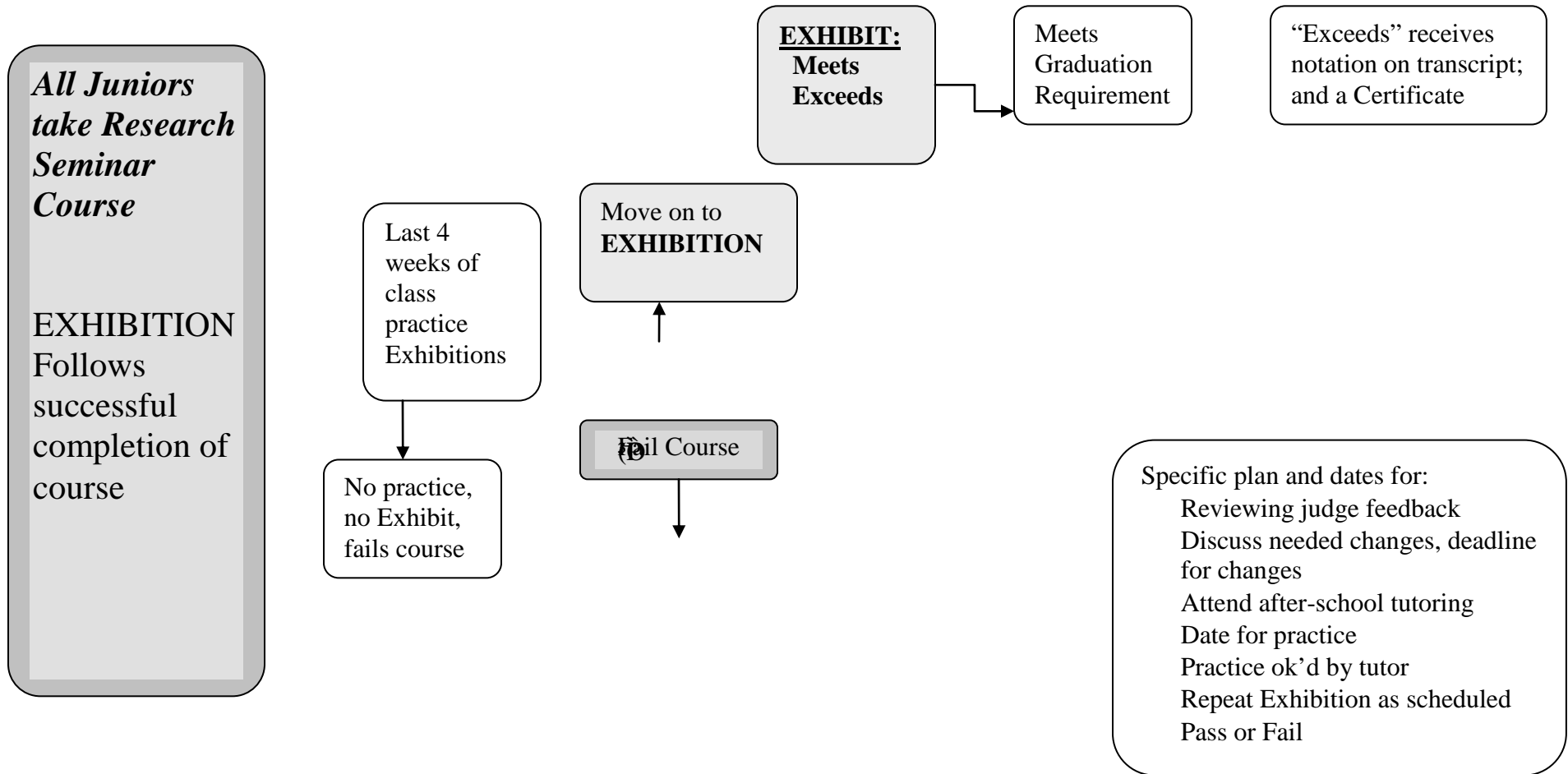Failure to attend is equal to a missed final
Exceptions will require an approved absence! No excuses!
If you do not receive a "met" or "exceeded" expectations on your Exhibition you will have to do it over again at a later time to be determined

x

Seminar Course Process Flow Chart

EXHIBIT:
  Meets
  Exceeds

Meets Graduation Requirement

"Exceeds" receives notation on transcript; and a Certificate

All Juniors take Research Seminar Course

EXHIBITION Follows successful completion of course

Last 4 weeks of class practice Exhibitions

Move on to **EXHIBITION**

No practice, no Exhibit, fails course

Fail Course (D

Specific plan and dates for:
  Reviewing judge feedback
  Discuss needed changes, deadline for changes
  Attend after-school tutoring
  Date for practice
  Practice ok'd by tutor
  Repeat Exhibition as scheduled
  Pass or Fail

Category	Always A range 100-90	Often B range 89-80	Sometimes C range 79-70	Seldom D range 69-60	Never/Missing E/F 59-0
Introduction, Thesis and Ideas/ Development	-Introduction engages and leads to the thesis. -Thesis is clearly defined and reflects complex analysis. -Paper is clearly focused. -Each topic sentence is clearly stated and clearly supported by numerous and substantial examples from his/her research which gives credibility to the paper. -Reader's understanding of the topic grows throughout the paper. -Writer clearly demonstrates evidence of academic research.				

Category	Always A range 100-90	Often B range 89-80	Sometimes C range 79-

Student Name _____ **CHS- Research Seminar-Final Exhibition Rubric - Name of Judge _____**

Scoring Values Categories	*Exceeds Expectation (4 points for each scoring category)*	*Meets Expectations (3 points)*	*Does not Meet/ Needs Improvement (2 Pts.)*	*Does not Meet/ Inadequate (1 Pt)*	*Total Score for category*
1. Preparation for Exhibition _____**All 4 requirements met**	Student has an Outside Contact Attire is appropriate or relevant to the chosen topic Student has three copies of an Annotated Bibliography Student has a Research Binder with all materials used in the Research project	____3 requirements met	____2 requirements met	____1 requirement met	
2 Research Abstract and Evidence to Support Findings	Research topic and thesis is clearly and succinctly stated; uses **sophisticated, articulate** language in correct context Thesis is supported with compelling, substantive pieces of evidence Conclusion convincingly resolves central issue raised in thesis Abstract accurately reflects topic, uses sophisticated language, is free of grammatical errors.	Research topic and thesis are clearly stated; uses language in correct context Thesis is supported with solid, if not of highest quality, evidence			

Scoring Values Categories	Exceeds Expectation (4 points for each scoring category)	Meets Expectation (3 points)	Does not Meet/ Needs Improvement (2 Pts.)	Does not Meet/ Inadequate (1 Pt)	Total Score For category
4. Presentation Delivery	Maintains eye contact with panel throughout entire presentation and fully engages audience (i.e. drawing them into the discussion; adapting presentation to their reactions; asking them questions; having them participate) Voice and pronunciation of terms is clear and correct There are no or very few hesitations, ums, ahs, etc.	Maintains eye contact throughout most of the presentation and keeps audience engaged Voice and pronunciation of terms is mostly clear and correct There are few hesitations			