2017-2018 Senior Project Requirements

Welcome to your senior project! Completion of this project is the ultimate requirement for graduation from Minnesota New Country School. This project should be hard. You may fail in some aspect of it. Go forth and be bold in your planning, for failure is where the learning begins. Outlined below you will find a list of major requirements for your senior project. Most of these requirements are unchanged from previous years, but please read through them carefully and let the senior team know ASAP if you have any questions.

Choice and Passion for Learning

1. Your project should be original in nature and not a re-hash of a previous project, ie a student cannot propose the senior project as an extension or continuation of a junior project. Some elements could be retained but there must be significant difference in products.
2. Your project will push your limits in terms of depth, breadth, quality, and creativity. It should excite you a lot, and maybe scare you a little. If it does not, then you're not choosing a great topic.
3. Your project will include a significant 'producible': each student should create something original for their project. Examples include making a film, building a complicated model, restoring a vehicle, building a motorcycle, writing a play, developing a business plan, creating a fashion line, etc. This should be the bulk of your project.
4. Your project will include a 7-10 page research paper. It must be of high quality, containing a thesis statement and supporting evidence. Proper citations must be used, and plagiarism is forbidden. If you're not clear about what is or isn't plagiarism please consult with your advisor.
5. Your project will include a community element. This is something that takes your project outside of the MNCS community and family, and is a benefit to the community. Teaching a class on experience Fridays is *not* an acceptable community piece unless you coordinate major contributions from people outside of MNCS who are not family members. The online community by itself is not acceptable; there needs to be face to face interaction with real humans.
6. Your project will include some form of planning for life after MNCS. We're working on creating detailed expectations for the life plan, and will have them finalized soon.
7. You will be responsible for creating a detailed, results-focused rubric that will be used to evaluate your project at check-ins and at finalization. In the end, *how your project meets the expectations outlined on your rubric will determine completion and credit, not the hours logged.* 300 hours is meaningless if they're not part of a quality project.

Respect and Responsibility:

8. Attend all meetings and workshops. If you cannot attend, inform your senior team _beforehand._

9. Meet deadlines; there will be a drop-dead date in October (60 credits finalized, Jr. Project Completed). You must meet this deadline to continue working towards graduation for spring of 2018.

10. Your project will be a minimum of 300 quality hours. Backlogs beyond the next day are not permitted unless discussed with your senior team in advance. _Hours that are backlogged without prior approval will not count, period._

11. A total of 50 hours from combined outside experiences can be counted toward your project. For example, if you are taking a PSEO course on psychology, and your project is focused around psychology, you may only count 50 hours of coursework towards the project. Other activities limited to 50 hours would include scouting, civil air patrol, 4H, police or military explorers, etc. When in doubt, ask your senior team.

12. Each student will do a 20 minute public presentation about their project. Every senior who has graduated from MNCS has met and survived this requirement; you will too.

13. Attend all senior presentations. Support your fellow seniors.

14. Due to the fact that many seniors are not always at school because of PSEO and senior project work, communicating with all seniors can be challenging. In order for us to communicate effectively, each student will provide the senior team with an email that they are responsible for checking on a regular basis. If you fail to check your email and miss important information _you are responsible for the consequences._

15. Last and most important, if at any time you are struggling with your project, lost in the woods, in need of ideas or inspiration, talk to your advisor or your senior team members ASAP! They're all here to help you succeed.