Senior Project Tips for Parents

The senior project is a requirement by the State of Idaho and the Coeur d'Alene School District for graduation. The Senior Project includes four parts: the argumentative paper, the project, the portfolio, and the presentation. There is .5 credit earned both semesters for a total of 1 credit earned through the senior counselor. However, usually the Senior English teacher usually oversees the completion of the entire project over the course of the senior year. If a student does not complete these requirements by the dates specified by the senior English teacher/counselor, they will not have met the graduation requirement and WILL NOT participate in the graduation ceremony. They will NOT receive their high school diploma until the requirement has been met.

The four components to the Senior Project are the Senior Paper, Project (15+ hours), Portfolio, and Presentation:

1) Senior Paper – Students will research a component of their project in more depth and support it with an argumentative paper. Parents should communicate with their student about:

   - The Paper Topic- Make sure the student has selected an argumentative topic (preferably connected, even loosely, to the project hours). The topic should be supported with ample evidence, enough to meet the requirements of the Senior Paper (6-8 pages and with at least 6 sources cited within the paper).
   - Due dates and requirements set forth by the student’s Senior English teacher

2) Project – Students will need to complete a minimum of fifteen hours of work and/or guided observation. The mentor of the project cannot be a family member or LCHS staff member. Parents should communicate with their student about:
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- Who, where, and when the student plans to complete the 15 hours (we remind students they need to work around their mentor’s schedule, not their own.)
- How does their project connect to their Senior Paper (even imperfectly)
- The due dates for the Mentor Agreement, Mentor Hours, and Mentor’s Evaluation (of your student in their role of mentee/apprentice)

3) Portfolio – Students must complete a portfolio documenting their project. Parents should communicate with their student about:
  - Making sure the student has a clean (doesn’t have to be new, but should not overly used) binder with dividers and sheet protectors if possible.
  - Acquiring artifacts that highlight the student’s project including pictures brochures, observation notes and/or other visuals from their hours with mentors.
  - The portfolio due date

4) Presentation – Students will give an 8-10 minute presentation of their Senior Project/Paper. Students will also bring their complete portfolio for review. The presentation should include a visual aide (usually slideshow). Parents should communicate with their student about:
  - What professional dress the student will wear for the presentation night.
  - Having the student present to your family in preparation for the evening.
  - Clearing the student’s schedule so work, travel, or other obligations don’t conflict with the one-night-only presentation opportunity (no make-ups)