

WHS Capstone Course

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Capstone Chairperson

A little about me:

- Worked at Weymouth High School since 2005 as a Science Teacher and have served as Science Lead Teacher
- Worked with the program since it began with the Class of 2012
- Served as a judge, Capstone advisor, Capstone teacher, Capstone Chair
- Also serve as the Academy Chairperson

What is Capstone?

- **Independent** project which synthesizes students' learning from the electives in their career academy
- Student must demonstrate command of core 21st century skills
- Use these skills to apply what they have learned to have an impact on their career field or community

Why a Capstone Class?

- Students wanted time in school to work on the project and meet with their advisor
- Previous model was not sustainable, teacher volunteers were declining
- Wanted to move the program forward, by reviewing the skills in the course and giving ample time to practice
- A course with a written curriculum would increase consistency and rigor

How was the Capstone Course Created?

- Initial curriculum was written by a team of teachers (6) which included previous Capstone advisors from various disciplines including CTE
- We based it on the steps of the previous project, but included activities and lessons where we thought students continue to struggle (i.e. professional emails/oral communication)

Course Roll-out

- Two year roll-out of the course
- First year 2018-2019, ran September to March of senior year
- Second year 2019-2020, ran April of junior year and will finish in March of senior year
- The Class of 2020 will be the first class of a full-year Capstone Course

The Course

- All documents for the course can be found on the [Capstone website](#)
- This includes the syllabus, grading policies, due dates, student exemplars, assignments, and instructional slideshows
- The course and the website are continually updated based on feedback from staff, students, and administration

Feedback from Class of 2019

	Areas of Strength	Areas to Work On
Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Being able to speak with my advisor consistently● The website● Learning time management● Time to work in class● Presentations in class● Learning how to research	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● More practice presenting● Equity in scheduling● <i>Consistency across classes/advisors</i>● Want more time for the paper

Feedback from Class of 2019

	Areas of Strength	Areas to Work On
Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teacher-student contact• Build better relationships• Exemplars for all assignments• Structure of the curriculum (Dates/Daily Assignments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partners with same advisor (even if not in same class)• <i>Need training on the course</i>• Turn-it-in (Plagiarism Software)• Start Real World earlier/More training on Real World• More points dedicated to Real World App• Instructions (Checklist) for Poster• Grammarly unblocked• Deadline for survey• Annotated bib - Connections to the other readings in paragraph 3• AP students - 3 times per week (or at least a long block)

CT Capstone Requirement

<https://www.ctpost.com/local/article/Capstones-top-off-high-school-experience-13558178.php>