

Overview of the Capstone Process and Representation

Capstone Rationale:

Students will draw from the self assessment and critical analysis component of the Career Life Connections course (available on Google Classroom, **code eui98de**) to help inform their Capstone Process (**Google Classroom code: qqddjby**). Underpinning this is reflecting back on what their experiences and growth as a learner revealed about who and how they want to be as a young adult. Further, what competencies do they want to develop as preferred plans for post-graduation? The idea is to move the student's life long learning journey forward and connects with who they are and how they want to be in the world.

The Capstone is an opportunity for students to further demonstrate their learning and strengths in the core competencies and to celebrate their growth during the educational journey. As such, students should determine how the core competencies will be integrated in the *process* and *representation* component of their Capstone. **It is imperative students have clear expectations, timelines, and stages outlined at the beginning of the Capstone process to enhance success with their Capstone Process.** It is equally important for students to consider availability of resources when planning for their Capstone Process, including but not limited to: ***timeline from beginning to completion; time available outside of school hours if needed to accomplish some activities; availability and accessibility of potential community advisors with relevant experience; and where to find needed research, materials, and/or equipment.***

Seven general processes, encompassing varied approaches to the Capstone *Process and Representation* are described below:

- **Connect and collaborate** – this option is characterized by experiential learning, including observation, dialogue and practice, plus opportunities for application.
- **Create and build** – this process is characterized by the development of an understanding of the people for whom we are designing products and can be useful in grappling with challenges and/or functionality that require creative ideas and hands on approaches.
- **Create and express** – this option provides students with a creative mode to convey their learning, interests, passions, or talents.
- **Innovation and entrepreneurship** – the focus of this option is to create and experience the start of a new business initiative.
- **Investigate and report** – this inquiry process is an opportunity to build research and communication knowledge and competencies through an active exploration of a meaningful question, problem, desired career path, or issue.
- **Personal story** – this option that highlights and explores a personal story is an opportunity to reflect on and share a meaningful life-changing event/experience (e.g. mental health, recovery, immigration, etc.). This autobiographical process is narrated from the student author's perspective and includes four stages: identify purpose and intent, plan and design, create and review, and present and reflect on your personal story.
- **Service learning** – this option explores service learning is for students who want to contribute to the community, learn leadership skills, and motivate others to make a difference in their school and/or community. It is also aimed at students who want to broaden or develop leadership

traits such as commitment, accountability, initiative, resilience and empathy by planning, organizing, and leading events that enable them to experience the value of community involvement while inspiring and motivating others to act. Through service learning students contribute to the community and demonstrate a desire to make it a better place. They explore the different roles of a team when working towards a common goal and demonstrates a willingness and enthusiasm to actively participate in service experiences.

Final Thoughts

It is imperative that students take this seriously as the benchmarks provided by the government for a successful completion are rigorous. Gone are the days where this could be done hastily over a frantic weekend. It is a requirement for graduation and requires serious effort for success. Please check in with your child to see where they are at as some are still trying to complete the CLC component (which was officially all due on Dec 2nd, 2019), as they all should be well underway for Capstone.