

YORKTOWN HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR EXPERIENCE FACT SHEET 2007-2008

WHAT: An opportunity during the last three weeks of high school, from May 29 –June 13, 2008 (after the conclusion of Advanced Placement examinations), for interested seniors to participate in a unique transitional learning opportunity outside the school. This full-time experience can take more than one form, but it generally will pair one senior with a professional in the senior's chosen field of interest (ie arts,health care, politics, architecture, marketing, teaching, culinary arts etc.) with whom that student will work/and or serve as an intern. The internship must include a minimum of 30 contact hours per week. Students must return to Yorktown on June 16th to participate in a seminar in which they will share their experiences.

WHY: At the end of senior year, many students are understandably looking forward to the next phase of their life and the challenges work or college will bring. This opportunity is one effort to give those interested a final, worthwhile, engaging learning experience while in high school. This will be structured differently from their previous high school education and will require motivation, initiative, and planning on the part of each student who hopes to conclude high school in this program. The program provides the additional benefit of truly fostering collaboration between Yorktown students and adults in the community.

WHO: Any senior can apply, provided they meet the requirements listed below. A student may not intern with his/her parents or guardian.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. A GPA of at least 2.0 for junior year and the first three quarters of senior year.
2. Senior dues must be paid and all other obligations met (ie books and uniforms returned or paid for, library obligations, etc.) prior to participation in **Senior Experience**.
3. Faculty, administrator, coordinator and counselor approval.
4. A student-initiated and designed proposal and a completed application due no later than February 27, 2008; approval by the application committee which will make the final decision. Details regarding the nature of the experience, accountability and supervision information, and a signed statement of sponsorship from the professional mentor.
5. Description of an experience that is worthwhile and substantial enough in scope to warrant participation for three weeks. Justification-explanation of why the student has chosen this particular experience. What does the student hope to learn? How will this experience contribute to the student's overall high school education?
6. Student must be passing each class for the year and must be passing 6/7 classes fourth quarter to participate. Any student failing two quarters of any class will be

- excluded. If a student has their first E third quarter, they will be advised they must raise their grade to a C for fourth quarter.
7. Written agreement required between student and teacher in any given situation in which the student has an obligation or commitment after the **Senior Experience** begins (ie a performance). Students in Art/Band/Chorus/Orchestra/Drama may be expected to sign a contract specifying reasonable rehearsal obligations for students participating in **Senior Experience**. Mentors must be prepared to cooperate with this contract.
 8. An understanding and acceptance by students attending a course at the Career Center that they will need to continue attending this course during **Senior Experience**.
 9. Agreement of one Yorktown faculty member who will serve as the school contract with the student and mentor, at least once, to monitor progress of the experience.

APPROVAL: By April 1st, 2008, the application committee will determine if the student's proposal receives preliminary approval. Final approval for the student's participation will be awarded in May, presuming there have been no serious problems with the student that would eliminate his/her eligibility for participation.

COORDINATOR: Ms. Kathy Scheimer will serve as the coordinator of teachers, parents and other resources who can provide connections to develop these opportunities for students. Students will be expected to design the experience they would like to have, and have ultimate responsibility for arranging this experience with a suitable mentor. Ms. Scheimer will serve as a resource to interested students who have difficulty finding an appropriate professional with whom to work, and will be the school's liaison with adults in the community interested in participating. The names of interested professionals should be forwarded to Ms. Scheimer.

FINAL GRADES: Seniors selected to participate will receive the grade they have earned in each course at the time they leave school for this independent experience. No grade will be assigned for the internship experience itself, but a letter will be attached to the student's transcript stating the student satisfactorily or unsatisfactorily completed **Senior Experience**.

FINAL EXAMS: Seniors selected to participate may be exempt from their final exams. However, a teacher has the option of administering an "alternative" final before the student begins the experience, or may arrange another culminating activity.