

# **The Wallenpaupack Area High School Graduation Project**

## **Wallenpaupack Area Policy**

The administration and board of education of the Wallenpaupack Area School District have approved a program which gives all students the opportunity to choose topics and activities of their own interest in the belief that this freedom of inquiry will lead to meaningful projects suiting the individual needs of all students and promoting the goals of deeper learning and commitment.

## **DESCRIPTION OF GRADUATION PROJECT**

The Graduation Project (often called the Senior Project) consists of four components: (1) a research paper, which is a focused research effort usually completed in the English 11 course; (2) a journal, which is the student's written record of the planning, work effort, and self-reflection accomplished for the project; (3) a product or performance, which is the student's own creative representation of his/her learning about the chosen topic; and (4) an oral presentation, in which the student demonstrates analysis, synthesis, and application of knowledge and communicates significant learning.

Scoring guides for the project components (other than the research paper, which uses English 11 curriculum criteria) have been approved and are available to all students. These guides establish parameters and criteria for determining the project grade. The Graduation Project grade counts for ½ credit, which generally involves 63 hours of class time; accordingly, students doing independent (model C or B) projects are expected to put forth an equivalent effort in their research, planning, development, production, and delivery to ensure the quality and completeness of their project.

The Graduation Project Course (model A) is designed to assist students in all aspects of the design, development, and presentation of their Graduation Projects. See the course description in the WAHS Course Selection Guide.

Independent Graduation Projects (models B and C) require students to fulfill the Project's components and meet the academic standards on their own or with the help of a mentor. See the Fact Sheet.

See the Scoring Guide Rubrics for the assessment criteria and grade calculations for the oral presentation, project journal, and product/performance.