Graduation Project

CMS supports the development of literacy and communication skills throughout our curriculum offerings, and particularly in high school courses.

Skills such as presenting information to an audience, researching topics, writing an argument and providing evidence to support a claim are taught in all curriculum areas. These skills will come in handy as students prepare for the culminating Graduation Project.

Graduation Project

▶ **Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools**

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Graduation Project

The goal of the Graduation Project is to assure/ascertain that CMS students have acquired the skills, knowledge and concepts necessary to perform well when they leave high school. Each student will use educational tools to broaden his/her knowledge about a particular, self-selected topic.

The topic should be complex and comprehensive enough to challenge the student intellectually and creatively. The topic should be viewed as one that requires cumulative knowledge. Each student will demonstrate mastery of his/her topic through the four components of the Graduation Project.

Research Paper

• The content shows that knowledge has been gained and that the student is able to analyze, apply, and synthesize that knowledge.
• The paper incorporates a minimum of five sources, including at least one primary source.
Students should avoid encyclopedias and other general-information references (including current technological reference bundles).
• For purposes of documentation, students should use the most current *MLA Handbook*, *APA Handbook* or an equivalent with in-text citations and technological (the Internet, for example) referencing.
• The final draft of the paper includes a works cited page.
• The paper is 6-8 pages of text.
• *Each student must complete a research paper before continuing to the product, presentation and portfolio phase of the Graduation Project.*

Service Learning Experience/ Product

• The SLE/product is an appropriate outgrowth/ extension of the research.
• Service Learning can be educating the community, advocating for others, or volunteering
• Students must demonstrate a minimum of 15 focused hours of effort on the SLE/ product.
• Students will provide evidence of the SLE . This may take the form of pictures, letters, etc.
• For more information:
   http:/serves.cmslearns.org/

Presentation

• The student will make an oral presentation of the research findings and defend those findings to a panel of judges.
• Students will be evaluated on communication skills, appropriate demeanor, extemporaneous questions, and content of knowledge about the self-selected topic.

Portfolio

As students progress through the project, they will compile a portfolio, which should contain required documents and artifacts of the Graduation Project components.

To access the **Graduation Project Manual,** please visit this site:
http://serves.cmslearns.org/students/graduation-project/

For further information and specifics regarding the Graduation Project, please contact the Graduation Project Coordinator at the student's home school.