**Mentor Information**

Mentors are at the heart of a successful Senior Project program.  If you have already committed to participating as a mentor, you may find information about your role here. If you are considering being a mentor, this page will provide information about the program and the mentor's role. The entire Senior Project is briefly explained below. **As a mentor, you will be involved with the Fieldwork phase by allowing the student to shadow you for 20 hours on the job, OR advising, guiding and instructing the student (at least 15 hours) while he/she creates a physical product. The student will let you know if they are asking to shadow you at work or if they are asking you to guide them in making a physical product, and specifically what he/she would like to make.**

**What is the mentor's role?**

White Lake High School measures student achievement through the graduation requirement of Senior Projects.  Seniors demonstrate their ability to write, speak, think, problem solve, research, organize and manage a long-term project.  The Senior Project is White Lake High School’s state mandated proficiency based graduation requirement. All seniors must complete their Senior Projects in order to graduate.

The components of Senior Project include:

* + A ***proposal*** that is reviewed by the Senior Project Coordinator. The proposal must provide the essential and supporting questions that frame the long term inquiry, why the student is interested in the topic, his/her baseline knowledge, the proposed product and how that will demonstrate a “stretch” (acquisition of new skills and/or knowledge), a specific mentor or the type of skill set a mentor will need, potential forms of evidence of the product and learning stretch, and a commitment to academic integrity.
  + ***Research*** on the topic that results in writing an 8-10 page research paper. The student will cite, summarize and annotate each source. This paper is written under the Guidance of the English IV instructor.
  + ***Fieldwork*** under the guidance of a ***mentor*** experienced in the topic area.
  + A ***product*** that connects to the research and demonstrates the learning stretch.
  + A ***portfolio*** of the process that includes the proposal, research, periodic reflections and evidence of the product.
  + A ***presentation*** of the student’s senior project process delivered to a panel of judges from the school, the community, and local businesses. The final speech will be delivered to a team of judges and will constitute a portion of the senior’s final exam grade.

A successful Senior Project involves parents, teachers and, most crucially, mentors. It requires student initiative and self-discipline.  As a community member**, you are being asked to serve as a student’s mentor for the fieldwork and product portion of her/his Senior Project.**  As a mentor, you would be asked to do the following:

* + Be a community member or business person who has an interest in working with high school students to further their knowledge of “real-world” experience
  + Be at least 21 years of age and NOT related to the student
  + Be an adult who is not employed by the WLHS learning community
  + Have some expertise in the area of the student’s interest
  + Be willing to help the student with her/his product (at least 15 hours or until the product is completed) OR allow the student to job shadow (at least 20 hours)
  + Be willing to give an interview if you have specific expertise in the student’s field of interest; be a resource
  + Consent in writing to serving in the mentor role
  + Give information and instruction to the student
  + Provide guidance for the student
  + Help the student identify the exact product that s/he plans to complete
  + Help the student push her/his limits and go beyond previous experience or skill levels
  + Give support and encouragement
  + Confirm/verify the number of hours the student spent working on the product
  + Evaluate the student’s product component of Senior Project using the School’s product rubric. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Sandy Nightingale, Senior Project Coordinator, at the school at 605-249-2251 or on her cell at 605-682-8020. You may also text or email her at [Sandy.Nightingale@k12.sd.us](mailto:Sandy.Nightingale@k12.sd.us)  If you are willing and able to assist a senior in this worthwhile endeavor, all of WLHS thanks you profusely!

Sincerely,

Sandy Nightingale  
Senior Project Coordinator  
White Lake High School