

Capstone Pilot Program

The year, both Lyman Hall High School and Sheehan High School are piloting a Capstone Experience. The schools are currently running a semester course for the group of thirty-three juniors who were selected for the pilot. At the end of the course, the goal for each student is to have an approved Capstone Proposal and Action Plan. Students are being exposed to skills during the course that they will use towards successfully completing the Capstone Experience, and ultimately will need for their post-high school experience. The skills are centered on research, communication, problem solving, and writing. At the close of the first semester, students will be “on their own” to finish the implementation of their selected project. There will be periodic check-ins with their Capstone teachers and mentors for progress monitoring. The projects will be due in April and will conclude with a presentation to various faculty members, parents, community members, and other students.

Each student has a unique project and their end result will be in one of four categories: improving a system, building a product, writing an investigative composition, or planning an activity or event. All students will be immersed in various forms of research, making connections within the community, and producing a formal presentation.

The students from both high schools took a field trip to the HubCap in November to meet each other, discuss their topic ideas, and learn about the opportunities that the HubCap can offer to enhance their projects.

A Capstone Committee was formed at the beginning of last school year to plan for the pilot and the full Capstone Experience. This group of dedicated teachers meet on a regular basis to address needs of the course, re-evaluate the experience, and discuss its future. The group met at the beginning of December 2014 to read Letters of Intent from each student in regard to their proposed Capstone Experience. The group provided feedback and determined whether the student was set to forge ahead or if he or she needed to refine the scope of the project before continuing to the next step. In the process, the group began to form a common set of expectations around the many options available to students

The committee will continue to meet to discuss the progress of the pilot and to determine what Capstone will be next school year.