My Vision Personalized Proposal Information

Introduction to the Course

My Vision Personalized is an opportunity for students at MVHS to explore a field of study that interests them, as well as design and create a year-long project under their chosen field of study. Projects may include writing a novel, designing a video game, creating a school-wide program, etc. Whatever project students decide upon, this course provides them with a unique opportunity to pursue something they are passionate about and where they are the driving force in creating something they care about deeply.

This course relies heavily on independent commitment and initiative. Students who undertake this journey will be expected to work on their projects 5-10 hours a week over the course of 16 weeks (120-180 hours over the course of the semester). At the end of the course, students will be expected to write an extensive thesis paper detailing their experience, and they will present this before a panel of professionals who will evaluate both them and what they have created. This is a serious commitment and will reflect to a large extent the professional world students will find themselves in once they move beyond MVHS. Please read the following document carefully as it details what you can expect throughout this course. It also asks that you present as clearly as you can a proposal for your project.

Basic Guidelines

1. You will be evaluated in three different areas:
   I) Meeting deadlines and completing all assignments beyond your personal project. There will be work outside of the individual projects, and how well you complete these (quality and timeliness) will be evaluated.
   II) Throughout the course, you will be pushed to grow mentally and socially. Growth and reflection is an important part of learning about yourself, your areas of strength, and your areas of growth. Working on these and becoming more well-rounded is an expectation as you pursue your passion.
   III) You will decide how mastery (over content and skills) is demonstrated in your project. Along with your mentor, you will decide how best to be evaluated in this area.

2. My Learning Personalized does not replace any requirements for graduation. This course is for you if you are self-motivated and want the opportunity and freedom to challenge yourself beyond what is required to graduate.

3. While this course does provide you with an opportunity to pursue something of your own choice, make sure what you want to create or the field you want to pursue is not already covered by the wide variety of courses offered at MVHS. This course is intended to give opportunities beyond what those other courses already provide.

4. Throughout the semester, you will be asked to find and meet regularly with both an on-campus and off-campus advisor. You must find your on-campus advisor, ideally a teacher who is knowledgeable in the field of study you want to pursue. This mentor
will help you create weekly mentor sessions, decide how mastery will be demonstrated in the proposed project, help you set a timeline with deadlines for completing different parts of the project, and give general advice as you need it throughout the course. Ideally, you will also have a mentor outside of the school, a professional outside the realm of education that can help you be successful as you pursue your chosen field of study and create your project. If you already have an outside mentor in mind, please let us know. If you do not have an outside mentor in mind, we will help connect you with one.

5. This project does not have to be the invention of something new. You do not have to do something that has never been done before. What you are creating is simply something that you want to create and have it be your own.

6. Your project must have a product at the end of it, something tangible that people can see, or hear, or use. In addition to your project, there will be a few large assignments you will have to complete (such as the writing of a reflection thesis and the presentation of your project before a panel of evaluators).

7. Weekly schedule: as part of your proposal you will create a semester-long draft with milestones and deadlines. While this schedule is not set in stone, think carefully about just what needs to be done and when it needs to be done so that you are able to complete your project. Work with your on-site mentor to make sure expectations are both realistic and thoughtful (with respect to the order you will need to complete each part of your project).

8. Depending on your field of study and desired project, you may need additional resources to help you pursue your passion. MVHS will do its best to support you in this area.

Detailed Proposal

A hard copy of your proposal, responding to all the questions below, must be completed and submitted to the course instructor before you can be approved for the course. Make sure to attach the final page of this application to your proposal with all required signatures. See the deadline for your Proposal Draft at the end of this document!!!

Below are some topics we would like you to fill out as best as you can on a separate typed document. These will help ensure your project is appropriate to the scope of the course. It would be very beneficial to you if you worked through these with your mentor or at least had them look it over when you are done. They will be signing this form when you are done filling it out giving their approval of your project.

1. Detail the central question or topic of study you will be pursuing during your capstone project. Give detailed information about what you want to learn, especially in relation to the project you will be pursuing. This section should be no more than half a page in length.

2. Describe your culminating project as best as you can. Again, include as much detailed information as you can but do not exceed half a page in length for this section.

3. How does this project go beyond the scope of any other course offerings and MVHS pathways? This should be a project that you cannot pursue in any other course offered at MVHS. Explain how you are taking your own learning in a new and unique direction.

4. How does this project support your interests or what you have already learned so far? What has caused you to enroll in this course and pursue this particular project or field of study?

5. The deadline for completing your project is detailed below. Backwards planning your project is essential to making sure it will be completed on time. Create a weekly calendar that details the milestones for yourself to stay accountable and timely
throughout the semester. You will be checking in regularly with the course teacher and your mentor to make sure you are meeting the goals you have set for yourself.

6. What role will your mentors fill (beyond being a just a mentor)? Be specific. What exactly do you need from each of them to help you with your project? Do you need them to help with design, creation, troubleshooting, or anything else? Make sure they are aware of what you hope to gain from their mentorship.

7. What potential obstacles do you foresee, and how do you plan to address these? Ideally everything will go smoothly as you build your project, but this is often not the case. Spend some time considering what might go wrong and how you plan to deal with those challenges throughout the semester.

8. What additional resources do you hope to get from the school? If at all possible we would like to make sure you have the tools and equipment you will need to be successful. Be as thorough as possible as you answer this question, but understand the school cannot promise they will get you everything you need as resources are limited.

9. Your project, while something personal that you are passionate about, should relate in some way to your peers, your community, or the world at large. How will your project benefit those around you? This benefit does not have to be a material one, it can also be ideological.

10. Is there anything else you would like to add, questions you would like to ask, or concerns you would like to express?

Deadlines (subject to change each year)
- Proposal Application Submission: May 2nd, 2021
- Project completion deadline: May 22, 2022
- Capstone Project Showcase: May 26, 2022

Good luck! If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Chodola at robertchodola@vistasd.org. You may also stop by room 410 during 3rd period or before 3:00pm after school gets out if you need to talk in person (it is advised you email first though to make sure I am there).

Statement of Agreement: I have read through the application thoroughly and acknowledge this proposal is thorough and appropriate for the time allotted by the course. As part of this process, I agree to fulfill my role in the creation of this project.

____________________________________________
Student Signature

Date

____________________________________________
Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

____________________________________________
Mentor Signature

Date

____________________________________________
Instructor Signature

Date