

Seniors: Greater Expectations

Edwin O. Smith High School
Storrs, Connecticut

Presenters: Marilyn Archibald
Louis DeLoreto
Debbie Veronneau

History

- ❑ Keep seniors engaged — Kathy Watt (1993)
- ❑ Continue the project — Steve Diamond
- ❑ Approve graduation requirement (2004)
- ❑ Expand project to involve entire faculty
- ❑ Create *project director* positions

Edwin O. Smith High School Vision Statement

We are a community of learners engaged in a passionate and imaginative quest for excellence. Genuine learning must inspire lives of personal integrity in which we become agents of positive social change.

Edwin O. Smith High School Core Values and Beliefs

*Edwin O. Smith High School is a **community** committed to academic excellence, personal **achievement** and **integrity**. Students are encouraged to **respect** diversity and become self-directed learners with a **responsibility** to contribute as literate members of an interdependent world.*

Edwin O. Smith High School

Learning Expectations — Academic

Students at Edwin O. Smith High School will demonstrate:

- ❑ problem solving and decision-making skills.
- ❑ critical thinking and visual literacy.
- ❑ reading literacy.
- ❑ writing literacy.
- ❑ interactive communication skills and collaboration.
- ❑ information and technological literacy.
- ❑ inventive thinking, creativity and curiosity.

Edwin O. Smith High School

Learning Expectations — Social and Civic

Students at Edwin O. Smith High School will demonstrate:

- ❑ cultural and civic literacy and global awareness.
- ❑ personal productivity and adaptability.
- ❑ interpersonal skills that actively support and contribute to the community.
- ❑ health literacy.

Requirements

- Research paper
- Activity/product
- Community service →
- Formal presentation
- Reflection paper

Community Service

- Sending schools
- Area libraries
- Senior centers
- Town recreation departments (trails, gardens, benches)
- UConn* labs
- Charity organizations (*Relay For Life*, walkathons)
- Hospitals
- Nursing homes
- Day cares
- Dog pounds
- Armed services
- Town fairs
- Windham Area Interfaith Ministry*
- Soup kitchen

Requirements (*continued*)

- Research paper
- Activity/product
- Community service
- Formal presentation
- Reflection paper

Organization

- 3 Directors
 - 2 Teachers with *full* power
 - 1 Principal 😊
- Students
- Mentors
- Contact person
- Teachers/staff

Faculty Contributions

- Time (both *in* and *out* of school)
- Advice
- Encouragement

Faculty Frustrations

- Time
- Consistency
- Disorganization
- Equipment
- Absences

Our Solutions

- Directors default system
- [Timeline](#) →
- Rubrics
- Internet access/organization
- Presentation schedule
- Evaluation groups
- Exemplary projects

Timeline



- April/May — hold junior *Kickoff Presentation*
- June
 - Approve summer hours
 - Match seniors with advisors
 - Update eBoard and *Senior Project* shared files
- Summer — email communications
- September
 - Meet with advisors
 - Approve projects / senior privileges

Timeline (*continued*)

- January — submit research papers
- February/April
 - Make revisions
 - Participate in community service
 - Take PD ½ days, CAPT ½ days
- April/May
 - Select audiences
 - Form evaluation teams
 - Attend presentations (2 day schedule)

Timeline (*continued*)

□ May

- Attend *make-up* presentations
- Evaluate potential exemplary projects

□ May/June

- Recognize exemplary projects at *Senior Awards*
- Read *Senior Project Reflections*

Our Solutions (*continued*)

- Directors default system
- Timeline
- Rubrics
- Internet access/organization →
- Presentation schedule
- Evaluation groups
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Senior Project Status

Name	Advisor	Startup	Research Topic	Paper Handed In	Integrity Letter	Paper Status
		X	ACL Tears	X	X	HS
		X	Those who inspire	X	X	HS
		X	Zebra Fish Embryo Development and its Connections to Genetics Research	X	X	S

Activity/Product	Community Connection	CC Verification	CC Integrity Letter	Senior Project Status
Volunteer to work with trainer to teach HS basketball team a jump program	Volunteer to coach a Mansfield Recreation Basketball team	X	X	HS
Learn to quilt and donate quilt to family in Mexico	Volunteer at orphanage in Mexico	X	X	HS
Volunteer in a lab studying zebra fish embryo development under the supervision of ___ at the <i>Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center</i>	Volunteer at Shore Run/Walk through <i>Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center</i> and at other fundraisers	X	X	S

Our Solutions (*continued*)

- Directors default system
- Timeline
- Rubrics
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2010 Senior Projects

Research Topic	Activity/Product	Community Connection
Comparison of the Cane, the Personal Assistant, Miniature Pony and Seeing Eye Dog for the Blind	Organize a pet food/toys drive at E.O. Smith	Volunteer at animal shelter
ACL Tears	Volunteer to work with trainer to teach HS basketball team a jump program	Volunteer to coach a Mansfield Recreation Basketball team
Those Who Inspire	Learn to quilt and donate quilt to family in Mexico	Volunteer at orphanage in Mexico
Zebra Fish Embryo Development and its Connections to Genetics Research	Volunteer in a lab studying zebra fish embryo development under the supervision of ___ at the <i>Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center</i>	Volunteer at Shore Run/Walk through <i>Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center</i> and at other fundraisers

Caveats

- Staff communication
- Staff individuality
- Student/parent spin
- Procrastination

Disposition of Directors

- Persistence
- Accountability
- Humor
- Common point of view

Your Choices

- Coordinators
- One-size does *not* fit all
- Individualize
- Faculty input
- School climate
- Community involvement

Examples of Projects

□ Painting

- Research — Murals
- Product/Activity — Paint mural at high school
- Community connection — Teach painting classes at the elementary school

□ Theater

- Research — Shakespeare for Children
- Product/Activity — Revise play and design costumes for fifth graders
- Community connection — Direct rehearsals and performances open to public

Examples of Projects (*continued*)

□ Novels

- Research — Fantasy novels
- Product/Activity — Write a fantasy novel
- Community connection — Read to a hospice patient through the *Visiting Nurses Association*

□ Musical instruments

- Research — Making musical instruments
- Product/Activity — Design and make a musical instrument
- Community connection — Instruct elementary school students on how to make their own instruments

Examples of Projects (*continued*)

□ Films

- Research — Film noir
- Product/Activity — Write and/or produce a film
- Community connection — Lead a film discussion at libraries and/or senior centers

□ Charities

- Research — Charitable organizations
- Product/Activity — Participate in *Relay for Life* events to raise money for the *American Cancer Society*
- Community connection — Organize teen activities for the entire event and captain a team

Examples of Projects (*continued*)

□ Small Businesses

- Research — Starting a business
- Product/Activity — Start a business building *Adirondack* chairs
- Community connection — Speak at senior citizen luncheon about the construction of the chairs and donate the chairs to the senior center

□ Coaching

- Research — Coaching young athletes
- Product/Activity — Organize and supervise a clinic or tournament
- Community connection — Coach a youth league for a season

Examples of Projects (*continued*)

- Theater Lighting
 - Research — Lighting design for theater
 - Product/Activity — Design the lighting for a drama production
 - Community connection — Volunteer to help with the lighting for all rehearsals and productions at *Windham Theater Guild*
- Reading
 - Research — Teaching children to read
 - Product/Activity — Design a reading lesson and create a box of activities for kindergarten and/or first grade classes
 - Community connection — Teach the reading lesson at area elementary schools and libraries

Examples of Projects (*continued*)

□ Energy

- Research — Renewable energy
- Product/Activity — Write newspaper columns advocating for renewable energy
- Community connection — Participate in town energy meetings and make presentations to the community

□ Disaster Relief

- Research — Natural disasters
- Product/Activity — Raise funds for disaster relief by designing and selling jewelry
- Community connection — Volunteer for clean up at disaster sites

Exemplary Examples

Photos



from our *Senior Projects...*

Relay For Life



April 2011

Edwin O. Smith High School Senior Project

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Empty Bowls



April 2011

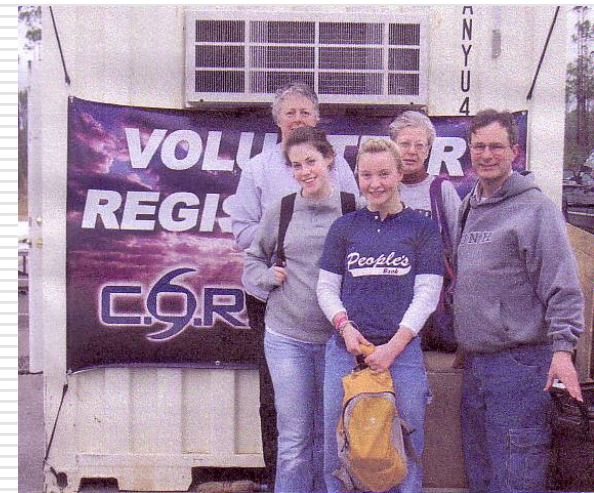
Edwin O. Smith High School Senior Project

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Traditional Dance of India



Hurricane Katrina



To Our Seniors

- We have seen your passion.
- We have shared your joy.
- You have made us proud.
- You have exceeded our expectations.

Thank You Seniors!

Questions

Marilyn Archibald
Louis DeLoreto
Debbie Veronneau



Thank You!