

Senior Projects 2018

Dear Class of 2018,

During the final eight weeks of the second semester, each of you will be taking part in a project of your own design. As students of Da Vinci Design, an institution that believes in Project Based Learning, you have had exposure to a wide array of projects throughout your time here. You've modeled, experimented, debated, constructed, pitched and designed your way through three and half years of different projects that have been laid out for you. We, your teachers, have had the pleasure of watching you identify problems, develop plans, and apply solutions to the tasks we have provided you.

Now, it is your turn. Now is your opportunity to plan the project that you want. Now is the time to leave a lasting impact, to innovate a solution to an issue, to implement ideas to fulfill a need in your community. We can't wait to see what you do!

Sincerely, The 12th Grade Team

Driving Question:

How can the class of 2018 take action to solve community needs and engage in self-discovery by evaluating problems, researching approaches, collaborating with experts and designing solutions?

Requirements to participate:

In order to be eligible to participate, you must:

- Be eligible for graduation.
- Pass all 12th grade classes (no "I"s).
- Return a parent notification form.
- Compose a written proposal of your individual project ideas.
- Form a pathways blended group of both Architects and Graphic Designers.
- Present group project idea for Spring Exhibition.
- Create a project pitch and present final project idea for approval.

Overview:

During this eight-week period, students will be working in small groups (four students or less) to achieve a project that makes a positive, lasting impact on our Da Vinci campus and/or in our local communities. Each group will be provided with support by their 12th grade teachers who will act as advisors. Each project must have a set of tangible products or "deliverables", and should incorporate both an Architecture and a Graphic Design element.

Get creative with what your final product may be!

Deliverables in the past have included:

Strong Ideas

- Innovative product designs that serve a real need
- Outreach programs for at-risk, overlooked populations
- Off-campus exhibitions of student-produced art and design
- Volunteering, community building and fundraising events that have a measurable impact on a struggling community
- Improvement or beautification of a community space
- Student-produced documentaries or feature films

Weak Ideas

- Volunteering with or fundraising for existing organizations
- Projects that cannot be fulfilled in six weeks
- Awareness campaigns with no measurable goals

Field Work Expectations & Requirements

- Students must be on campus from 9am till 1:15pm daily.
- Unless students are participating in an approved Field Work day, each student will remain on campus for Office Hours from 1:15pm-3pm, and will attend seminar.
- All students must still be present for Advisory and CD at regularly scheduled times.
- Groups are required to receive mentorship from experts in relevant industries, and to seek opportunities to work off-campus and “in the field” to do research and complete project deliverables.
- Each group will present to the rest of their cohort for feedback and ideas once per week.
- Students will regularly meet with advisors and keep advisors updated daily.
See Advisors & Scheduling on page 3
- Throughout the project, all students will be expected to keep a daily blog or journal to track their progress and their Field Work locations. This daily log will be included in weekly and final assessments and serve as a data source for a final, group process paper.
- Students must complete all Senior Project presentations and expectations, remaining in good academic and disciplinary standing, in order to walk the stage at graduation.
See page 12 of Student and Family Handbook

Advisors & Scheduling

Once Field Work begins, students will meet regularly with multiple advisors:

- **Keystone Advisor:** Senior Project groups will see their Keystone Advisors, along with their Senior Project cohort, every day during Period ½ and after lunch. Students will present their progress to their cohort at least once per week, typically in a CFG or a Friday Stand-Up format. They will also have one-on-one meetings with their Keystone Advisor at least twice per week. Each student’s schedule is approved at the discretion of their Keystone Advisor.
- **Pathways Advisors:** Senior Project groups will meet with each Pathways Advisor once per week in order to discuss and analyze their incorporation of their Pathways elements. Each group will also be required to meet with one of their Pathways Advisors during office hours once per week, and may meet as often as needed to consult on their Pathways elements.
- **Financial Accountability Advisor:** Senior Project groups will meet with their Financial Accountability Advisor twice per week in order to keep track of fundraising efforts, document funds spent, analyze data or action research, etc. Each group will also be required to meet with one of their Financial Accountability Advisor during office hours once per week, and may meet as often as needed to consult on their Pathways elements.

Sample Senior Project Schedule (after Pitch POLs)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Prd 1-2	Cohort Check-in	Cohort Check-in	Cohort Check-in	Cohort Check-in	Advisory 10:00-10:45am
Prd 3-4	Calc/Cohort Work Time	Calc/Cohort Work Time	Calc/Cohort Work Time	Calc/Cohort Work Time	Friday Stand-Ups
Prd 5-6	Financial Accountability	Cohort Work Time	Financial Accountability	Group / Key Adv.	Calc/Cohort Work Time
Prd 7-8	Cohort Work Time	Arch Pathway Adv.	Gr. Design Pathway Adv.	One-on-Ones	
Advisory			Advisory 12:20-12:45	Advisory 12:20-12:45	
LUNCH	12:35pm-1:05pm	12:35pm-1:05pm	12:45pm-1:15pm	12:45pm-1:15pm	12:20pm-12:50pm
1:10-1:30pm (Mon/Wed) 1:20-1:30pm (Tues/Thurs)	Cohort Check-Ins	Cohort Check-Ins	Cohort Check-Ins	Cohort Check-Ins	Group / Key Adv. One-on-Ones
1:30pm-2:55pm	- Approved Field Work	- Cohort Work Time	- Approved Field Work	- Scheduled Office Hours w/ Arch Pathway Advisor	
3:00-3:55 pm	Seminar (Students can miss seminar if field work is approved)	Seminar (Students can miss seminar if field work is approved)	Seminar (Students can miss seminar if field work is approved)	Seminar (Students can miss seminar if field work is approved)	

Presentations

Students will do four presentations during the Senior Project Process: a Pitch POL, a Midway POL, Senior Showcase, and a Final POL.

- **The Pitch POL** will be the students' opportunity to share their ideas with the entire 12th grade team and receive feedback and approval to move on to the Senior Project field work schedule.
- **The Midway POL** presentation is formal, is given to their advisor and at least one other teacher, and will require students to present an outline for their final POL, raw data / footage from their fieldwork, research samples that they've done, and challenges they've encountered so far.
- **Senior Showcase** is an exclusive exhibition for Da Vinci Design senior project deliverables. It is an opportunity for students to share final deliverables with our extended Da Vinci community in a special, off-campus space.
- **The Final POL**, also formal, will be students' opportunity to present on their findings and solutions to the need that they wanted to address. POL must include evidence (data, the daily logs, and any photos or footage collected, etc.) gathered from working in their field work sites. Final POLs will be held for the full panel of teachers, as well as any mentors or community leaders that helped student organize and implement their project; and, it will be open to parents, students, community members, and guests.

Proposals

To start the Senior Project process, each student will be presenting a written proposal for addressing a particular topic in a way that will leave a positive, lasting effect on the Da Vinci Schools and/or on your community. Each student is responsible for proposing:

- A target population or group of focus that you would like to help.
- A driving question that addresses the need of this population/group.
- A primary Senior Project idea that explores a solution to this driving question.
- Plans to incorporate an Architecture or Graphic Design element (based on your pathway).
- A list of clear, concrete deliverables (ie: tangible, measurable goals) .
- Justification to why this project is needed, and how it addresses the driving question.
- Potential roles defined for project team members, as well as other pathway connections.
- Ideas for potential industry partnership connection.

Proposals will be submitted via online survey. Survey form will be available on teacher websites.

Deadlines

Phase 1:

Senior Project Roll Out:..... Feb. 9th
Individual Proposals Due:..... Feb. 23rd
Project Groupings:..... Mar. 2nd
Parent Informational Meeting.....Mar. 15th @ 5:30pm (Stoll's Room)
Parent/Guardian Signatures Due and
Advisors begin meeting with students..... Mar. 23rd
Exhibition Presentation:..... Mar. 27th

Phase 2:

Content Wrap-Up and Finals Begin:..... Week of April 9th
Pitch POL Prep:Week of April 16th
Project Pitch POLs:..... Week of April 23rd

Phase 3:

Field Work Schedule Begins:.....Week of April 30th
Midway POLs:..... Week of May 14th
Senior Showcase:.....May 31st
Final POLs:..... Week of June 4th

Hello Da Vinci Design families!

This letter is to inform you about an exciting opportunity for the senior class. Your student will be a part of the next class of Da Vinci graduates to experience Senior Projects. This student-driven project would give Da Vinci designers the opportunity to explore a project topic of their choosing, and each student will design a project meant to address a need of the Da Vinci Schools or of our local community. Working either in a group or as an individual, the students will collect research and take action through fieldwork and through discussions with experts in the field. Each group or individual will be assigned an advisor to guide them through the project design process. The project will culminate in an exhibition with students explaining their research, potential solution or idea that they have created in response to that research.

Some examples of senior projects could be uniquely designed products, student produced documentary films, volunteer and fundraising events, or outreach programs to local schools.

Completing a comprehensive project of this magnitude necessarily means that students will have to be out ‘in the field’. This field research schedule will begin on **Monday, April 24th**. The current plan is to have students come to campus for half days **from April 24th until graduation**.

We understand that second semester of senior year is hard time to stay focused and motivated, and rightfully so, as students often have all their credits and are simply waiting to graduate and move on to the next phase in their lives. The Senior Project was created so that this last semester of high school can leave a meaningful impact on our students. We hope that students will take advantage of this opportunity to leave a positive, lasting impression on the Da Vinci Schools and Los Angeles community.

(PLEASE SEE OTHER SIDE BEFORE SIGNING BELOW AND RETURNING BOTTOM HALF WITH STUDENT)

For additional information, please attend an informational meeting for parents on February 23rd @ 5:30pm. The meeting will be hosted at the Da Vinci Design campus.

Sincerely,

The 12th Grade Da Vinci Team

(cut here and send back to school with student)

Senior Graduation Project Return Form

Returning this acknowledges that both parent/guardian and student are aware of project requirements and schedule change starting April 24th:

Student Name:

Student Signature:

Date:

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Date:

The plan is to have seniors on campus from about **9am-1:15pm every day from April 24th until graduation**, according to the following schedule guidelines:

- Students will present their progress to their cohort once per week to get feedback on project progress, to receive suggestions for improvement, and to share ideas and successes
- Students will consult with their advisor twice per week. In the twice-per-week advisor consultation meetings, students must provide evidence of their progress in order to continue to earn the right to have fieldwork time (ie: half-days).
- Students in the field are responsible for letting their advisor know where they are in the field *at all times*. Advisors will be performing random site checks during the project.

Proposals for projects will be due **Friday, February 16th**. Advisors will read through the proposals and return them to students as early as **Monday, March 6th**.

PLEASE NOTE THAT IF A STUDENT HAS ONE OR MORE INCOMPLETES, HE OR SHE WILL BE UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SENIOR PROJECT FIELD WORK SCHEDULE.

In order to be eligible to fully participate, each student must:

- Be eligible for graduation
- Pass all 12th grade classes (no “I”s)**
- Return this parent notification form
- Present a written proposal of project ideas
- Provide a project overview and calendar
- Present group project idea for Spring Exhibition
- Create a project pitch and present final project idea for approval

Please contact any of your student’s 12th grade teachers via email if you have any further questions, suggestions or comments. Thank you!

