

# EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS

## An Independent Study for Course Credit 2010-2011 Academic Year

Dear Chesapeake High School Student,

Completion of an Educational Options Portfolio is one method for obtaining high school course credit. The first step is to submit a written proposal for course credit approval. The proposal will outline your learning plan in a sequential order. It will clearly state the learning goals of your study, describe the learning activities in which you will be engaged, and will provide a description of how you will account for your learning progress.

Once you receive approval to begin your independent study, you will compile an educational options portfolio. The portfolio will document your learning so a determination can be made as to whether or not course credit may be granted for your study.

A template has been designed to help you with the proposal process. Be complete in addressing each item. The Educational Options Portfolio template on the next page will guide the preparation of your learning plan.

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### PART ONE: PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



**Chesapeake High School**

*Home of the Panthers*

**10181 County Road One, Chesapeake, Ohio 45619**

**Phone: 740-867-5958**

## **INDEPENDENT STUDY FOR COURSE CREDIT**

### **PART TWO:**

#### **DEVELOP AN INDEPENDENT LEARNING PLAN**

The second step is to develop a proposal for your independent learning plan. Your proposal will provide a clear and concise description of your plan.

A strong proposal will include the following information:

- What is the topic of my independent study?
- What learning goals will I address by completing this study?
- What resources will I use to guide my learning?
- In what activities will I be engaged?
- What questions will guide my learning.

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### **PART THREE:**

#### **SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL FOR APPROVAL**

Submit your proposal to your guidance counselor's office. The document will then be directed to the appropriate academic department. The teachers responsible for awarding credit will evaluate your submitted proposal. The department will make a determination as to whether or not your proposal will provide adequate and appropriate learning that could be considered worthy of course credit. Once a decision has been made, the document will be returned to the guidance office and your counselor will notify you regarding your next steps.

## **INDEPENDENT STUDY PORTFOLIO COMPONENTS**

### **COMPONENT 1: INDEPENDENT LEARNING TIMELINE**

Create a detailed timeline that will help you stay on schedule to complete your independent study. Include all the places you intend to visit; who you would like to interview or anyone from whom you will request information. Be specific in sharing what you plan to accomplish at specific intervals.

### **COMPONENT 2: PROGRESS REPORT OF INDEPENDENT LEARNING**

Keep a complete record of all that you do toward completing your independent study. Each time you work on any aspect of your independent study, describe the activities in which you are involved.

### **COMPONENT 3: PRESENTATION OF INDEPENDENT LEARNING**

Keep a detailed outline that will be used to guide a presentation that will document your learning. The outline will help your evaluators understand each step of your presentation.

### **COMPONENT 4: INDEPENDENT LEARNING PRODUCT**

The product must provide evidence of your learning. Include artifacts of your choice that will provide evidence of your learning.

### **COMPONENT 5: REFLECTION OF INDEPENDENT LEARNING**

Reflect on your independent study, including your presentation. Offer an explanation about how you benefited and what you learned from compiling a portfolio that documented your independent learning.

**As you are working to complete your independent study, check in regularly with your assigned teacher(s). Always be prepared to share the progress you are making toward reaching your learning goals.**



**The Educational Options Portfolio** is one path that a student might consider to earn high school course credit. The independent study portfolio option is part of Senate Bill 311, which enables students to earn units of high school credit based on a demonstration of subject area competency, in lieu of completing hours of classroom instruction.

**Chesapeake High School** is pleased to be able to offer our students more choice and autonomy in deciding how, when and where they learn. Through the Educational Options Portfolio, students will infuse 21st century skills, including technology and media. They will demonstrate interdisciplinary connections, while fostering creativity and innovation into their independent learning.

## TOP 10 LIST

The following is a list of the most important skills, knowledge and behaviors students will need to provide Ohio with a competitive advantage in the new global economy. The **Educational Options Portfolio** provides one means for developing these skills.

1. Critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and applied knowledge for practical results.
2. Mastery of rigorous academic content, especially in literacy, mathematics, and information technologies.
3. Innovative and creative thinking, including entrepreneurial skills.
4. Communication skills, both oral and written.
5. Team learning and work, relationship building, and interpersonal social skills.
6. Alignment of education with the needs of economic development, including better communications and cooperation between learning and the workplace.
7. Personal responsibility, including good work habits, work ethic, knowing how to be flexible and continue learning.
8. Global awareness, languages, and understanding other cultures.
9. Communications and better interfaces between K-12 education and postsecondary/higher education to make high school graduates better prepared for the next stages of their education and lives.
10. Content mastery and skill development, including applied learning across the disciplines in a global context.