

## **SENIOR EXPERIENCE/CAREER EXPLORATION AT A GLANCE**

More detailed information can be found in the student handbook and online at [www.apsva.us/yhs](http://www.apsva.us/yhs)

### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

<b>Student Application Due</b>	<b>3/15/2024</b>
<b>Mentor Application Due</b>	<b>3/15/2024</b>
<b>Mentor Business Reference Due</b>	<b>3/15/2024</b>
<b>Student/School Agreement/ Parent/Guardian Authorization Due</b>	<b>3/15/2024</b>
<b>Senior Experience Kick Off Meeting</b>	<b>5/17/2024</b>
<b>Senior Experience</b>	<b>5/20-6/11/2024</b>
<b>Senior Experience Final Seminar</b>	<b>6/12/2024</b>

**WHAT:** An opportunity during the last three weeks of high school, from May 20, 2024 – June 11, 2024 (after the conclusion of Advanced Placement Examinations), for interested seniors to participate in a unique transitional learning opportunity outside the school. This full-time experience can take more than one form, but it generally will pair a senior with a professional in the senior's chosen field of interest (i.e., arts, health care, politics, architecture, marketing, teaching, culinary arts, etc.) with whom that student will work and/or serve as an intern. A student may not intern with his/her parents or guardian or participate in an internship at Yorktown. Students also cannot return to Yorktown during the school day. The non-paying internship must include a minimum of 35 contact hours per week (except the week of Memorial Day which will only require 28 hours). Students must return to Yorktown on June 12<sup>th</sup> to participate in a Final Seminar designed to share their experiences.

**WHY:** At the end of senior year, many students are understandably looking forward to the next phase of their life and the challenges work or college will bring. This opportunity is an effort to give those interested students a final, worthwhile, engaging learning experience while in high school. The program provides the additional benefit of truly fostering collaboration between Yorktown students and adults in the community.

**WHO:** Any senior can apply, provided they meet the requirements listed below. A student may not intern with his/her parents or guardian, at YHS or any other high school in Arlington, including Bishop O'Connell.

**APPROVAL:** The Senior Experience application committee will determine if the student's proposal receives preliminary approval in April. Presuming there have been no serious problems with the student that would eliminate his/her eligibility for participation (i.e., attendance and/or disciplinary problems), and if the Teacher Checklist is successfully completed and submitted on time, the student will be allowed to fully participate in Senior Experience.

**COORDINATOR:** Ms. Heather Sutphin serves as the coordinator of the program. Ultimately, students will be expected to design the experience they desire and have the responsibility for arranging this experience with a suitable mentor. Ms. Sutphin serves as a resource to interested students who have difficulty finding an appropriate professional with whom to work and is the school's liaison with adults in the community interested in participating. The names of interested professionals should be forwarded to Ms. Sutphin.

**FINAL GRADES:** Seniors selected to participate will receive the grade they have earned in each course at the time they leave school for this independent experience. No grade will be assigned for the internship experience itself, but the student will need to attend the final seminar and turn in a one-page summary of their experience.

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

1. If it is determined that a student might be failing a course for the year, it may be grounds for exclusion from Senior Experience.
2. A satisfactory review of the student's disciplinary record; in addition, excessive absences may be grounds for exclusion from Senior Experience.
3. Approval of 12<sup>th</sup> grade Assistant Principal and students' teachers is required.
4. Senior dues must be paid, and all other obligations met (i.e., books and uniforms returned or paid for, library obligations, etc.) prior to participation in the Senior Experience.
5. A student-initiated and designed proposal and completed Student Application, Mentor Application, Mentor Reference (if not a previous mentor with the program), and the Student/Parent/School Agreement signed by the student and his/her parent/guardian are due no later than March 15, 2024. The Senior Experience Review Committee will review applications and make a preliminary decision at the end of April. Presuming there are no serious problems with the student that would eliminate his/her eligibility for participation (i.e., attendance and/or disciplinary problems), and if the Teacher Checklist is successfully completed and submitted on time, the student will be allowed to fully participate in Senior Experience.
6. The student-initiated proposal must include the nature of the experience, and it must be worthwhile and substantial enough to warrant participation for three weeks. It should also include why this particular experience was chosen, what the student hopes to gain from this experience, and how this experience will contribute to the overall high school education of the student.
7. A written agreement is required between student and teacher in any situation in which a student has an obligation or commitment after the Senior Experience begins (i.e., a performance). Students in Art/Band/Chorus/Orchestra/Drama may be expected to sign a contract specifying reasonable rehearsal obligations for students participating in Senior Experience. Mentors must be prepared to cooperate with this contract.
8. An understanding and acceptance by students attending a course at the Career Center that they will need to either get approval to participate in Senior Experience from their Career Center teachers or continue to attend this course during Senior Experience.
9. A student may not intern with their parent or guardian or participate in an internship at YHS or any other high school in Arlington, including Bishop O'Connell.
10. Students whose Senior Experience does not match the submitted proposal must contact the Senior Experience Coordinator immediately for an alternative placement or return to school.
11. A student who does not successfully complete Senior Experience requirements may have a letter indicating unsuccessful completion placed in their file.

**FINAL EXAMS:** Seniors selected to participate may be exempt from their final exams. However, a teacher has the option of administering an "alternative" final before the student begins the experience or may arrange another culminating activity.

### **SENIOR EXPERIENCE FACULTY RESOURCES:**

A student, who is having a difficult time obtaining a mentor, can request to be paired with a volunteer member of the faculty to serve as their Senior Experience Resource to assist in identifying and arranging for a mentor.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

All Senior Experience information can be found on the Yorktown website at [www.apsva.us/yhs](http://www.apsva.us/yhs)

### **Contact information:**

Phone: 703-228-5389

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