

JUNIOR PORTFOLIO

”Rewards come to those who are willing to work hard for them. First you need the education appropriate to your goal. Then you need the will, dedication, and perseverance to fulfill that dream.”



The entries for this portfolio are related to career choices you will be making in the next 3-5 years. The development of entries for this project is also a lesson in following directions and preparing a good portfolio.

Always save your work in a safe place such as your flash drive and your M: drive.

The information you provide in this portfolio will be about your future educational plans. Keep in mind you will be asked to share some of your entries at the Student Showcase during the spring semester. It is important to make your entries suitable for your audience which will include your classmates, teachers, parents and visitors from HCPS, BRCC, and the community. You are expected to choose appropriate language and content for your entries.

You have completed the Freshmen and Sophomore portfolios. This year you will prepare a portfolio that highlights your future plans.

During your senior year you will select a topic for your Graduation Project and write a research paper which will be due in May. In your Super-Senior year, you will prepare your portfolio, product and presentation to complete your Graduation Project.

This portfolio is designed to assist you in developing very important skills needed at HCEC and BRCC:

- research and writing skills
- self-reflection and personal assessment skills
- critical thinking and problem solving skills

By exploring your career interests, you will gain a greater understanding of what is needed to reach your career goals. During your senior year, you will choose and research a Graduation Project topic related to a career interest. This portfolio will assist you in this process by helping you learn more about career options, decide on an internship, and understand the education that is needed to work in your chosen field. Two components for the Graduation Project are developing a portfolio for your internship and writing a research paper. This portfolio supports the learning of skills to help you develop the best portfolio and research paper you can produce. The Showcase will help you be better prepared when you do your presentation for your Graduation Project which is assessed by adult judges.

Your work will be reviewed on a quarterly basis. At the end of the first 9 weeks of second semester your portfolio should be completed. It will be your choice as to whether you would like to store your portfolio at school or take personal responsibility for it so that its contents are available for future years. You will be asked to pull entries for each annual Student Showcase and you will be asked to reference your portfolio when you begin investigating possible Graduation Project topics. The deadlines for portfolio entries are:

First Check-in	End of 1st 9 weeks (1st semester)	5 entries completed
Second Check-in	End of 1st Semester	10 entries completed
Third (and final) Check-in	End of 1st 9 weeks (2nd semester)	12 entries completed

Every portfolio entry should be:

- a thoughtful response to the topics you select
- **typed** and edited as needed to reflect your future plans
 - artistic illustrations, videos, or other creative representations are acceptable
- in booklet format with entries in order as outlined in the following pages
- titled on the first line of the entry
- numbered by entry in the upper right corner of the page

There are **14** entries from which you will select **12**.

EVERY STUDENT is required to complete items **15 & 16** and these are part of your **12 items**.

COMPLETENESS counts, but your writing should also demonstrate appropriate word usage, sentence structure, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation. Illustrations should be prepared on 8.5 x 11 paper. A flash drive or CD can be included for the entries where appropriate. Three-D representations can be displayed at the Student Showcase.

GRADING: This project will be part of your grade for Study Group each quarter.

STUDENT SHOWCASE: Please remember that your audience will be fellow students, parents, school leaders and community leaders. The Showcase is one way we can say thank you to the people who support the Early College program and provide the funds for your two years of college credit tuition free.

PRESENTATION: Every student is required to participate in the Student Showcase which will be on **March 29, 2012** (with the snow date on April 5, 2011). These dates should be entered in your agenda book. Please make sure that your parents/family members are informed of these dates and they become an appointment that your parents/families/friends will keep.

The Participation in the Student Showcase letter which requires your signature and your parents' signatures must be returned by September 2, 2011.

Henderson County Early College High School

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Home of the ROADRUNNERS

August 11, 2011

PARTICIPATION IN STUDENT SHOWCASE

Dear Parents/Guardians of HCEC Students:

The dates for the annual HCEC Student Showcase will be March 29, 2012 (snow date April 5, 2012). Please mark these dates on your calendar and plan to attend to support your child in their presentation. The Showcase will be 4:30-6 PM at the Early College. Every HCEC student is required to participate in the Showcase.

The purpose of the Student Showcase is to allow students:

- to demonstrate what they have learned by attending the Early College.
- to prepare for their Graduation Project which is a requirement for graduation.
- a way to express their artistic and creative talents.
- the opportunity to say thank you to the community for their support of the Early College.
- The opportunity to say thank you for two years of college credit for free.

This year, your child will be working on a portfolio based on their grade level:

- Freshman – Self-Assessment
- Sophomore – Career Development
- Junior – Future Plans
- Senior – Graduation Project Research Topic

It is important that you are aware of this event and the related expectations. Students are expected to work on the activities to complete the required portfolio during Study Group. Students will need to complete some activities as homework. Your child has a Portfolio Syllabus which they should share with you. The syllabus can also be found on our school web site at www.hendersoncountypublicschoolsnc/hcec. Thank you for your support in keeping your child on track with completing the portfolio by the deadlines listed in the syllabus. Your child’s work ethic related to the portfolio will earn a grade of Pass or Fail for Study Group each nine weeks.

Sincerely,

Principal

Your signature indicates that you and your child understand the project your child will be working on and that your child will participate in the Student Showcase. Please sign this letter and return one copy to your child’s Study Group teacher by September 2, 2011.

Print Student’s Name _____

Parent/Guardian signature _____

Date _____

Junior Future Plans Portfolio Entries

- 1. My Future:** In 2-3 years, you will have three choices for your future: 1) continue my college education or 2) complete my post secondary education and join the work force or 3) travel the world to broaden my horizons (assuming you are independently wealthy and can do this). Write an explanation for each of these choices and justify why one is a better choice for you than the other one.
- 2. My College:** Refer to your Career Development Portfolio from 10th grade. Write a comparison paper on the two colleges or universities that have a strong academic program for the career you want to pursue and you want to apply to for acceptance. Include things like academic requirements, test data, GPA, SAT/ACT, etc. If you do not have all the requirements for enrollment, identify the missing data and explain how you can accomplish the requirements before you apply to the school of your choice.
- 3. Scholarship:** Investigate scholarship opportunities and write a description of what is needed to be eligible for three (3) scholarships that you would like to receive. Include things like expectations for GPA, SAT/ACT, community service, financial need, etc. Any college web site will have links to scholarship opportunities or you can look for them at www.cfnc.org.
- 4. Student Loans:** If you do not receive scholarship money, more than likely you will need to apply for student loans. Sometimes students have huge accounts in student loans at the end of their college career. Investigate student loans and prepare your FAFAS document. Discuss the repayment options and interest rates. Use an Excel spreadsheet to prepare an amortization statement for repaying your college loans. You can use the web site http://www.cfnc.org/site/paying/primer/fa_primer.jsp to help you find information about student loans. Also include your plans for not accumulating a large amount of student loans.
- 5. Resumé/Vita:** Prepare your resumé/vita based on your current experience and accomplishments. Research and develop a list of things you will need to add to your resumé/vita to get the job you want or to be accepted to the college or university of your choice.
- 6. Design a Pathway:** Design a timeline to show the highlights in developing your professional pathway that will enhance your resumé/vita.
- 7. Self-Reflection for Planning:** Refer to the quote at the beginning of this document. Prepare a written composition that includes your interpretation and how it applies to your plans for the future.
- 8. Leadership:** People are divided into three groups: 1) Those who make things happen, 2) Those who watch things happen, and 3) Those who wonder what's happening. Select one group and explain why you want to be in that group and make a connection to your future plans.
- 9. Quote Me:** Select one quote from the list and explain in writing what it means to you and make a connection to your future plans.
 - "Be the best at what you do and someday you'll get noticed"* Mike Zaifert, an 8th grader
 - "I believe that a good education is the key to success. People who read and write well are the ones who are successful."* Julia Child, Expert Chef
 - One half of knowing what you want is knowing what you must give up before you get it.* John Mason
- 10. Graduation Project Topic:** Describe a topic you would like to research for your graduation project based on your career choice. In a written essay, explain why the topic interests you and how it would strengthen your skills in research, writing, critical thinking and problem solving. Include in your description how this topic would be an academic stretch for you to learn about something that you know very little about. (Every high school student in Henderson County Public Schools is required to complete a Graduation Project.)

11. **Internship:** If you could pick a place to do your summer internship for your graduation project based on your career choice, describe where it would be and what it would be like. (Every high school student in Henderson County Public Schools is required to do an Internship as part of their Graduation Project.)
12. **The Real World:** Write a one page summary about the real world of college or work that will influence the decisions you make for continuing your education or entering the work force.
13. **Post Graduate Work:** Investigate the options you may have for continuing your education after you have earned your Bachelor's degree. Include:
 - a. Your educational goals for seeking an advanced degree (or not seeking an advanced degree)
 - b. Research interests for your Master's thesis
 - c. Research interest for your Doctoral dissertation
 - d. Universities that have strong programs for your research ideas
 - e. The path you will take to reach your goals.
14. Decide on a topic related to your future plans that may not be included in any of the topics in items 1-13. Describe why you picked the topic and how it relates to your future plans.

ALL STUDENTS COMPLETE THESE TWO ENTRIES:

15. **Future for Kids web site:** Every student will establish an account on the Future for Kids web site and share this site with parents. You will be given more information about this web site after the midterm of the first nine weeks. Your entry should be your response to the information available from the web site and how it can help you make future plans.
16. **DO THESE FOUR THINGS LAST (Put all entries in a notebook or binder of your choice.)**

A COVER-- Your cover should include your selected title, your name, and an illustration appropriate to your portfolio. For illustrations, consider a word pattern, graphic design, collage, original drawings, photographs, magazine pictures, quotations, etc. Make it creative, colorful and attention getting!

A TITLE PAGE-- Select a word or phrase particularly meaningful for you and your career choice as your title. Browse through a thesaurus, listen to music you love, think of special people and places and interests, and then submit several possible titles. Be CREATIVE!. Illustrate the title page and include your name.

A TABLE OF CONTENTS-- List the entry number and title of all entries in your portfolio on the Table of Contents page.

Epilogue (Last page): Imagine that a complete stranger picked up your portfolio. The stranger reads it from the first page to the last. What perspective will this stranger have of the author? Write a CAREER SKETCH of the author and the career from the stranger's point of view. Refer to SPECIFIC ENTRIES to support the stranger's impression of the author and the career covered in this portfolio.

KEEP IN MIND THAT SOME OF THESE ENTRIES WILL BE USED IN YOUR PRESENTATION AT THE STUDENT SHOWCASE IN MARCH.