Academic Overview

Written by Bob Hollis

Overview

One Student at a Time

Shenandoah's goal is to educate one student at a time and provide a rigorous, relevant and real world education to the students who attend. We believe that students learn best when they are exploring their passions and applying their learning to the world around them. Shenandoah is not a vocational school but we recognize the importance of teaching students how to interact in the world after high school. The school incorporates the outside world into its programs through the LTI (Learning Through Internships) program. Students are experiencing the world beyond school and the program embeds academics into the internship work.

We believe that students will succeed in school when they have a strong connection to at least one adult in the school. As a result the classrooms here are structured differently than in a traditional school. Students have one teacher, called an advisor, for multiple years and stay with the same cohort of classmates for their entire high school experience. The classrooms are self contained because much of the work at Shenandoah is project based and independently motivated. Shenandoah is committed to individualized learning that teaches students critical thinking skills, gives them confidence in their own knowledge and challenges them to achieve at high levels. Ultimately, we strive to transform students into lifelong learners.

At Shenandoah students will create/ complete:

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3 Academic, independent study projects per year.

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6 Book of interest projects per year.

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A minimum of 1 LTI project per year.

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300 hours of community service.

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Assessment through exhibitions, 60 to 90 minute presentations of work to a panel of peers, parents and the teacher.

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Math classes and online programs to build skill levels.

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Work that follows their passions and interests.

Leadership

Students at Shenandoah are required to participate in leadership activities. This takes many forms at our school and provides students the opportunity to take their excitement outside of the class. Students run committees, participate in board meetings, are involved Teen Court, are Youth Ambassadors, build homes with Habitat for Humanity and participate in exchange programs. These are not the only things our students do and their experiences are only limited by their imagination.

School committees include:

*If you don't see something that fits your interest, form your own committee and make it happen!

Community Service

Shenandoah students are required to complete 300 hours of community service by the time they graduate. This seems like a daunting task when students first start. It is common to hear students say "300 hours, that is impossible!" However they quickly realize that there are many opportunities at the school and the requirement is not as hard as they first assumed. Many of the students have completed over and above the required hours because they realize that

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community service can be fun and makes a true difference.

By the time all of the students who are currently enrolled graduate they will have contributed 36,000 hours of their time to the community by just meeting the minimum requirement!

Our students make a difference!