

Capstones Project Highlights

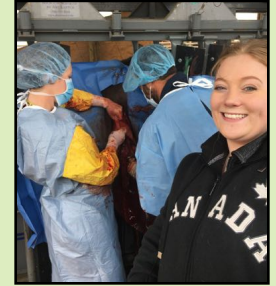


Capstones is a new program for graduating students that provides an opportunity for students to direct their own authentic learning experience while working with a mentor and building real-world, transferrable skills so that they are prepared for college, modern careers, and adult life. The 2016-17 school year is the pilot year for the Capstones program, with a small number of students participating in the pilot. Check out what the pilot students have been up to this year!

BHS senior, AJ Thompson, is creating experimental electronic music for his capstone project. He uses computer software to create sounds that he mixes together into original compositions, which he publishes online on SoundCloud. His final product will be a SoundCloud portfolio of songs, as well as a screen capture of him making music. AJ will present his project to the Basalt Middle School Maker Space.



GSHS senior, Grace Coley, wants to become a veterinarian. For her capstone project, Grace has been working with the vets at the Rifle Animal Shelter and a local large animal vet. Grace's most exciting learning opportunity happened on her second day at the large animal vet's office: an emergency call came in, and she got to participate in an emergency c-section to deliver a calf!



RFHS senior, Carlton Phelps, built a workstation/gaming computer from a broken laptop, an extremely slow office PC, and several new parts. Carlton wants to be a graphic engineer and design the cars we drive tomorrow. Carlton has finished his capstone and attests: "This was my favorite project in my high school career." Carlton will present his project to the middle school STEM club.



Bridges High School junior, Kaysha Clark, has been running the Blessings in a Backpack program at Crystal River Elementary School this year for her capstone project. This program provides food to families in need on a weekly basis. Each week, Kaysha is responsible for making food orders, picking the food up, and then coordinating with the family liaison to put together the list of recipients. She then organizes the food into bags and delivers it every Friday to students at CRES.



Fall Sports to Start on Time Next Fall Despite Late Start to School Year

The upcoming 2017-18 school year will begin later than normal with a start date of September 5th. This delayed start date is designed to accommodate the Grand Avenue Bridge closure and summer construction on school facilities. It is important for parents and students to understand that while school is starting later, athletics will not. Fall sports for high school and middle school students will start on Monday, August 14th.

It is very important that student athletes are ready to participate on that date. Missing practice early in the season is difficult to recover from as up to 25% of practice time for a sport season occurs before the first competitive game. In fact, this early season practice is so important that we have a district policy on it:

"Athletes must come out for a sport within the first five (5) days of practice for the sport unless an exception is granted by the coach and Principal. Unless it is school excused, athletes must go out for their sport at the beginning of the season. There is a two-day grace period at the beginning of the season. For 3-5 days late, the athlete will miss the first contest, for more than 5 days (if allowed to go out) the athlete will miss the first two contests. Students will not be allowed to go out for a team once the cuts have been made (if applicable)."

Please plan your summer travels soon, and make sure that your student athlete is ready to go on Aug. 14th!

Fall sports for high school and middle school students will start on Monday, August