

**MIDDLETON HIGH SCHOOL
INDEPENDENT STUDY COURSE**

Independent Study: A semester or year of credit developed to provide an opportunity for significant growth, experience, and enrichment in a given area and to go beyond the present course offerings. Such credit will be achieved through a curriculum jointly planned by the student and teacher to include a final project, performance, or report which may be reviewed by the participants and the Independent Study Council. This study must be contracted between a student advanced in a given area and the mentor and then approved by the Independent Study Council. The I.S. course may replace a regularly scheduled class.

Independent Study Guidelines:

General

1. Independent Study would not replace classes now offered because of conflicts in schedules or not offered because of limited enrollments.
2. The Independent Study Council will receive applications for Independent Study and will approve or disapprove each one on the basis of established criteria and guidelines including a recommendation from departments directly related to the proposal.

The I.S. Council will consist of approximately ten staff members including one administrator as chair, one librarian, and the remaining members from a variety of disciplines. There will also be two fully participating student members.

3. A student must make written application for Independent Study at least one quarter in advance of the I.S. course being implemented. Late applications will not be accepted.
4. Once the application is approved the student is NOT eligible to drop Independent Study at any time.
5. It is the responsibility of the student to find the certified staff member willing to be the mentor for the Independent Study.
6. The end result of the Independent Study must be shared with an appropriate audience of students, parents, community members, faculty, and/or the I.S. Council.

Student

1. Independent Study is open to junior and senior students except in uniquely unusual circumstances.
2. A student may earn a maximum of one-half credit per semester and one credit totally through Independent Study.
3. To be eligible for Independent Study the student must have above average grades in the department(s) or course(s) to which the Independent Study is directly related.

4. The student may or may not have received any semester failing grades in the previous two semesters to when the Independent Study would be taken.
5. To be eligible for Independent Study the student need to have demonstrated good school behavior and regular attendance.

Staff

1. Any Middleton High School certified staff member who is willing to assume responsibility is eligible to serve as a mentor for a student in Independent Study. Participation as a mentor is completely voluntary.
2. The mentor is normally limited to one student per semester on Independent Study and may sign for consideration only one application per semester.
3. It is the responsibility of the mentor to meet with the student the equivalent of at least one regularly scheduled class period per week to insure satisfactory student progress and to lend direction and support. It is also the mentor's responsibility to evaluate, grade, and account for the Independent Study student as one would in any other course.
4. The mentor must work closely with the student in the developmental stages of the student's proposal to insure a statement of specific objectives, methods for obtaining the objectives, resources to be used, time lines to be followed, and a measuring system for an on-going and a final evaluation.

Administration

1. A mentor will be released from supervision two periods per week to help compensate for the minimum one hour per week the student and mentor are required to meet together along with time added planning, curriculum development, and location of resources.
2. Consideration for supervision assignment will be given to the mentor.
3. Some money will be placed in the budget to support the purchase of special material and resources for Independent Study.

Student should complete pages 3 and 4 in ink or with a computer.

Applications need to be legible and dark enough to be easily photocopied.

The student should turn in the completed application directly to the Independent Study chairperson. Upon request, the student will be given a photocopy of the application.

COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Approved: Yes _____ No _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

M.H.S. INDEPENDENT STUDY PROPOSAL

Student: _____ Grade: _____

School Year: 20____ - 20____ Mentor: _____

Application Term: Semester 1 _____ Semester 2 _____ Year _____

Describe your Independent Study project:

Why have you chosen this project?

What will this project accomplish?

Identify the resources you will use to complete your project:

_____ Encyclopedia _____ Films, Records, Tapes, CD's, DVD's _____ Community Agencies
_____ Books _____ Galleries _____ Experiments

