AURORA INSTITUTE

SYMPOSIUM BREAKOUT SESSION
MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2022 | 2:30-3:30 PM ET

# Demonstrating the Vision of the Graduate Through Capstone and Personal Interest Projects: What do the Students Say?


**PRESENTERS:**

- Elizabeth Radday, EdAdvance
- Matt Mervis, EdAdvance
- Marin Mahoney, Waterford High School
- Tess Briggs, Waterford High School

# Our Presenters

**Dr. Liz Radday**

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**Matt Mervis**

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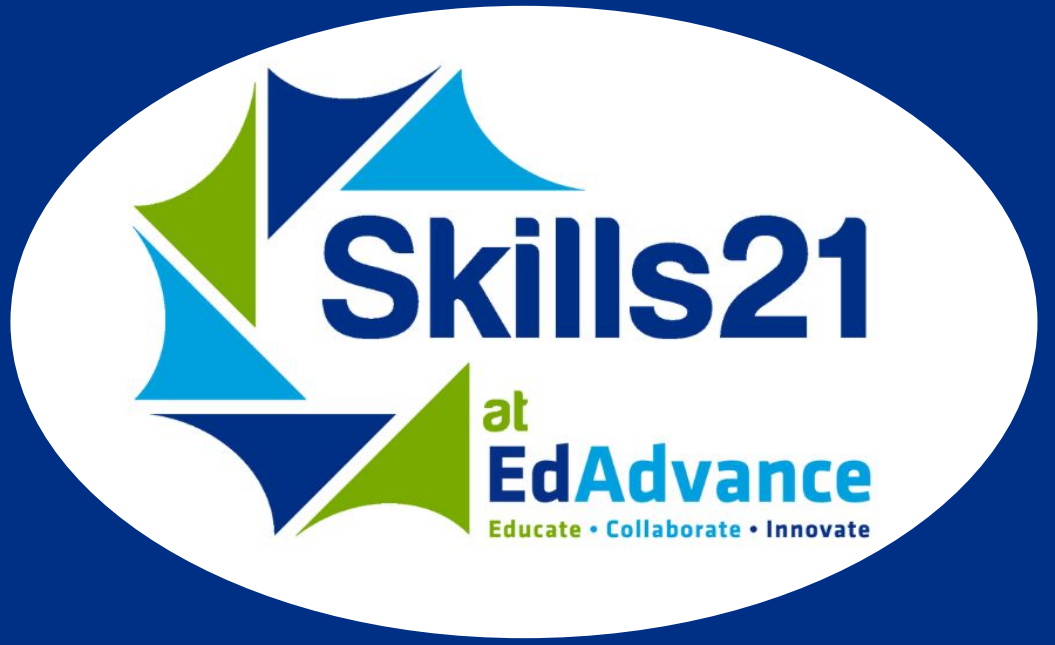
# Our Agenda

- Welcome & Intros
- About Skills21 + Capstone
- The Skills21 Capstone Model
- Students on Their Projects
- Questions and Takeaways



# About Skills21 at EdAdvance

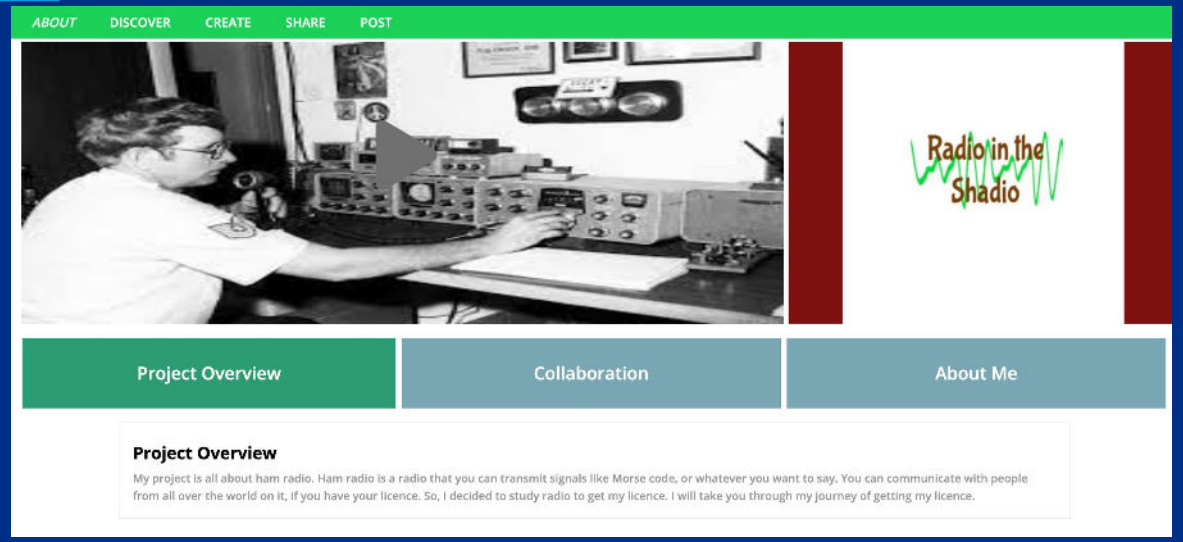
- Regional Education Service Center in NW CT.
- Challenge based, hand-on learning experiences
- Capstone for over a decade

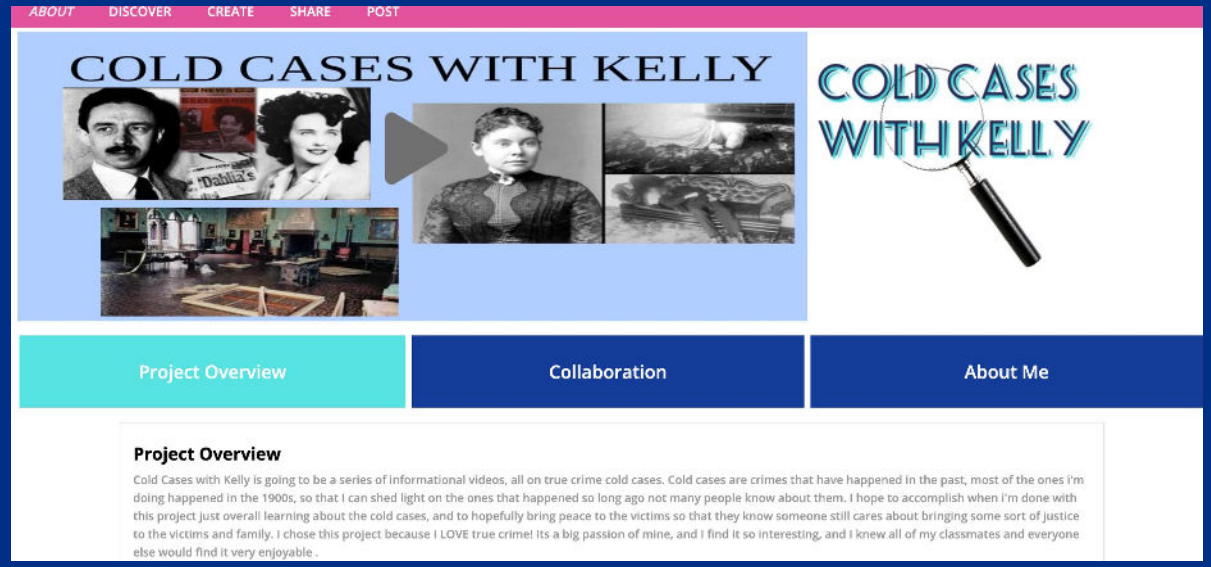
# What is a Capstone Project?

- Project that is *student-designed, student-driven*
- Student's passions, interests or career goals
- Exhibition with an authentic audience
- Demonstrate the vision of a graduate skills
- Extended period of time
- Self-reflection throughout the process
- Junior/Senior year of HS

# What is a Personal Interest Project (PIP)?

- Capstone “lite”
  - Shorter time frame
  - Less research
  - Fewer activities
- 5th-12th grade



# Portrait of a Graduate

- Skills include: Communication, Collaboration, Problem Solving, Critical and Creative Thinking, Research/Information Literacy, Creativity, Community/Environmental/Civic Engagement
- Authentic assessments for real world skills
- Opportunities to practice skills, fail, try again
- Capstone/PIP is about process over product; marshalling all the resources to get a project done

21 Corners of

# Capstone/PIP in a WIDE Range of Settings

- 1 semester/trimester course
- Full year course
- Independent project outside of class time
- Part of an advisory program
- Part of an academic course
- Gifted and Talented

- All students participate
- Some students participate by opting in

- Can determine honors, distinction

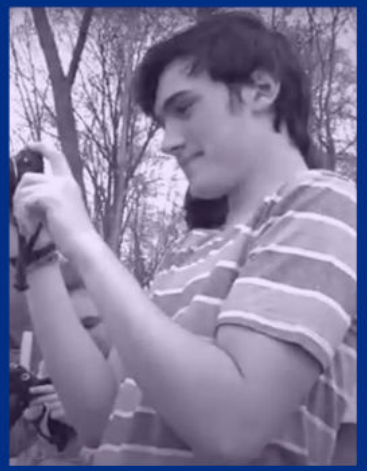
# What do colleges say about Capstone?

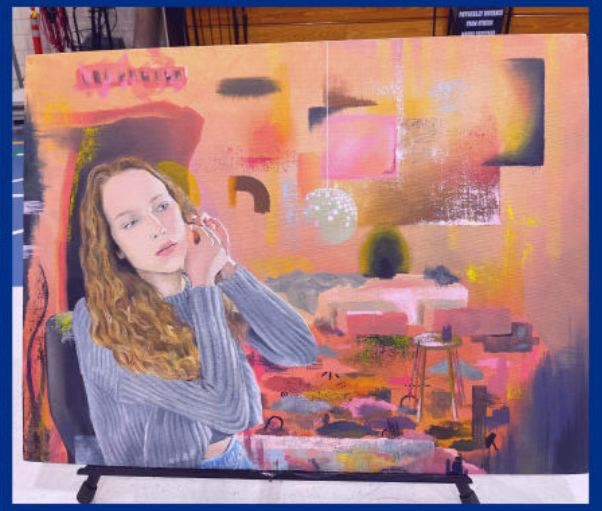
- Differentiates students - beyond APs, IB, Honors classes
- Many students write about Capstone as part of their college application
- Demonstrates non-academic skills colleges are looking for
- Projects can be shared with schools
- Colleges want to know about Capstone in your school profile - write about it!

# Capstone/PIP Overview

- 3- 4 Phases, 12-18 Tasks, Videos
- Aligned to the Portrait of the Graduate
- Scaffold from thinking about interests

  all the way through completed project





# Capstone PHASES + ACTIVITIES

## PERSONAL EXPLORATION

1. Interest and Passion Questionnaire
2. Learning from Failure
3. Personality Quiz
4. Understanding the Portrait of a Graduate

1

## PROJECT IDEATION

1. Project Brainstorm
2. SWOT Analysis
3. Project Feedback from Peers
4. Capstone Proposal

2

## PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. Time Management Plan
2. The Annotated Bibliography
3. Finding a Mentor
4. Post to Your Blog

3

## PROJECT EXHIBITION

1. Launchpad Profile  Page Development
2. Final Reflection
3. Demonstrating the Portrait of a Graduate

4

# Capstone In Action

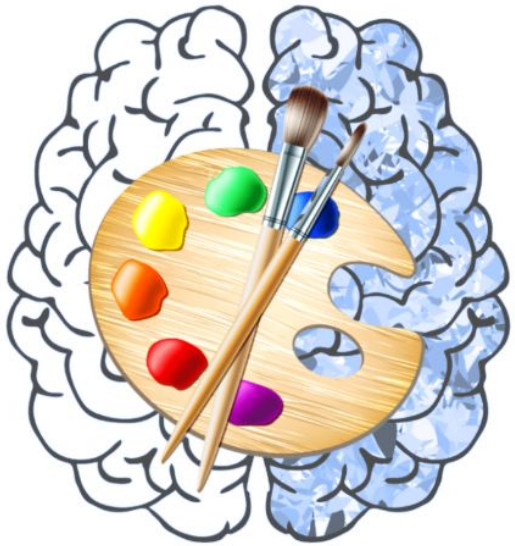
- Waterford (1 semester)
- Student choice in presentations: “Science Fair” model (85%), “Formal” stage presentation (15%)
- Aligned to 5 Portrait of a Grad Skills
  - Communication
  - Research and Understanding
  - Critical Thinking
  - Responsible Citizenship
  - Self Direction

# Skills Alignment

- Communication  - initial pitch and peer feedback, final presentation, blog, trailer video
- Research and Understanding - Annotated bibliography, application of research to action
- Critical Thinking - Overcoming obstacles, solving problems
- Responsible Citizenship - collaboration with peers, working with mentors, connecting to the community, solving an authentic problem
- Self Direction - time management, voice/choice in project and product

# Sensory Paintings For Atria Residents

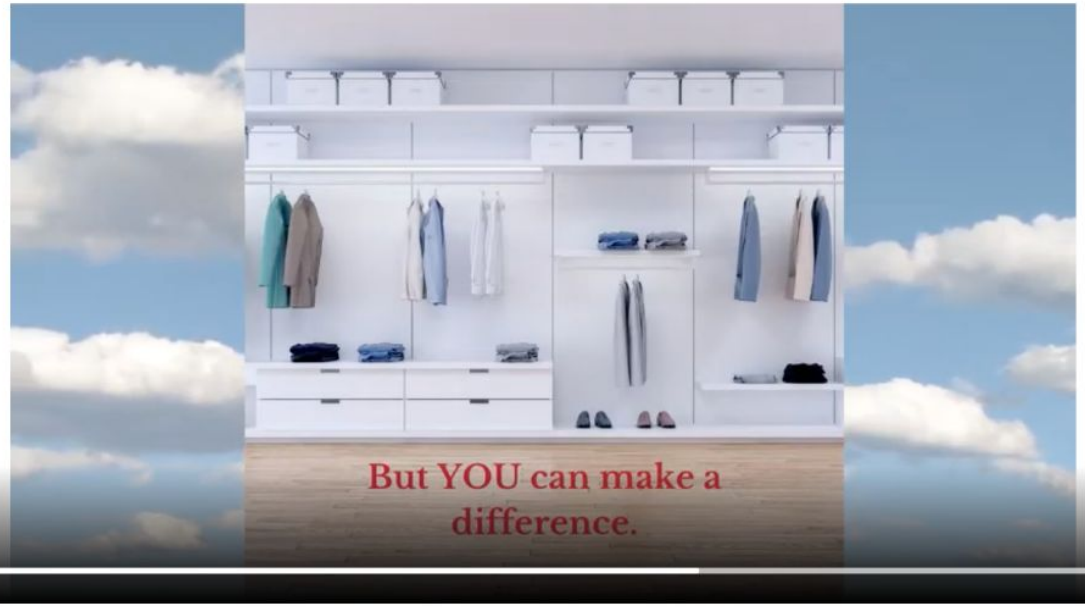
Capstone 2021 Project by Marin Mahoney



Project Overview | About Me | Final Project

## Project Overview

This project was inspired by my grandfather, who suffered from Dementia. I used to paint for him and deliver my paintings to his nursing home. For my Capstone project, I created sensory paintings for people suffering from Alzheimer's and Dementia like my grandfather had. I researched the colors that work best with brains affected by diseases like Alzheimer's, and how each color would affect the individual. I was able to create 11 paintings based off of color and shape preferences for people who suffer the same was my grandfather did.



Project Overview | About Me | Final Project

## Project Overview

In my capstone project, I will take old clothes and transform them into a new piece that is more wearable than the original item. I am working with friends and family, learning their personal style, and making a new design inspired by their aesthetic. I will practice as many aspects of the fashion industry as possible like finding inspiration, sketching a design, and sewing the item. In the end I hope to improve my sewing skills and expand my portfolio to hopefully apply to an art school.

# Questions for our Students

- What skills did you learn or practice that you didn’t learn/use in your other traditional courses?
- What was different about Capstone compared to your other courses?
- Did you/will you use your Capstone experience in applying to college?
- Did your Capstone project influence your ideas about future careers, college majors or other long term goals/plans?

# Questions?

Our Contact Information

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Skills21.org

# AURORA INSTITUTE

## Symposium

OCTOBER 24 – 26, 2022 | VIRTUAL

Thank you for joining us!

***Share Your Thoughts***

Participate in our one-minute poll (link in chat box)