



FRIENDS SELECT

FRIENDS SELECT SCHOOL
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October 28, 2009

Dear Seniors and Parents:

We are pleased to be sending you information about *The Senior Internship/Independent Project*. The Senior Internship/Independent Project is a graduation requirement for seniors. At the conclusion of seniors' regular courses and final exams in mid-May, the students spend three weeks in Philadelphia or another city, working on their internships or independent projects. The students are supervised by on-site adults (mentors) and an internship advisor from Friends Select School. The internship experience provides a useful complement to the students' core academic program. It also helps facilitate the transition from the expectations of high school course work to those of college and adult life.

One goal of the program is to familiarize students with the management of a business, the application of a service, or the manufacture of a product. This may be a time for students to explore potential career interests. During the internship, students begin to demonstrate an understanding of appropriate workplace behaviors and acquire a greater appreciation for the useful and meaningful work available in the city. Students then are required to deliver an oral presentation about their experience. Examples of past internships include the following:

- Shadowing a marketing representative for an advertising agency
- Writing with a journalist for an independent newspaper
- Working with visitors at the Franklin Institute
- Building a wooden boat at the Seaport Museum
- Volunteering with local and state political campaigns
- Serving the community through construction work with the 18th Street Development Corporation
- Performing social service work with a local hospital

If a senior has *already* completed a school-sponsored internship, the student may undertake another internship or may complete a pre-approved, three-week independent project either on or off campus. The project may be academic or service-oriented. Students who select the independent project are also required to deliver oral presentations about their experiences.

The Senior Internships and Independent Projects are evaluated on a pass/fail basis, and these evaluations appear on student transcripts. Although seniors may be working on an internship or project at an off-campus location, the students are expected to attend regularly scheduled end-of-year events such as the athletic awards and yearbook ceremonies, baccalaureate, graduation rehearsal and graduation. For academic or other reasons, as determined by the director of upper school, a student may be directed to fulfill this requirement by an alternative assignment.

Projects designed by recent seniors included:

- Designing and painting a mural
- Directing and editing a film about a FSS service project
- Independent studies in art, literature and astronomy

- Teaching a faculty member how to use Quark and Photoshop software
- Serving as a teacher's aide

Students: A more detailed description of the project and a timeline for the approval process will be made available on the school's web site, www.friends-select.org, under "Current Students." Now is a good time to determine whether you will select an internship or are eligible for an independent project. If you are planning an independent project, we advise you to draft a project outline and seek a faculty sponsor by the end of the first semester.

The Senior Internship/Independent Project period is May 24 through June 10. Internships and independent projects will be presented to students' peers, faculty members, mentors and parents on Friday, June 11. Questions about the internship or independent project experience should be directed to Carolyn Shank. Carolyn will be happy to provide guidance, and, wherever possible, contact information for businesses and organizations in the Philadelphia area.

We are looking forward to working with the Class of 2010, helping them fulfill the internship requirement or design an intensive learning experience for themselves. If you have any questions about the program, please contact either of us and we will be happy to discuss it with you.

Sincerely,



Jesse Dougherty
Director of Upper School



Carolyn Shank
Coordinator of Senior Projects and Junior Internships