

A Change in State Standard for Computer Literacy for Current Freshman Students (Class of 2009)

According to the new state standards (implemented in July 2005) and a clarification that was received by Pinkerton in January 2006 the half credit for computer literacy credit which had, in the past, been assigned to high school students after having completed computer literacy courses in the Middle Schools is now being revoked by the state. This change in the standards is being mandated in all schools in the state of New Hampshire. The state wishes to ensure that students receive instruction in and on technology throughout their careers in K – 12 education. To promote this process the state has made the following rules mandatory starting with the class of 2009:

- Students in grades K-8 will construct an electronic portfolio which will be assessed after completing middle school. Successful completion of this portfolio will allow the student to receive permission to take more advanced courses at the high school level but no formal credit will be assigned to the high school transcript. Students whose portfolios that are not successfully completed will need to take a beginning level technology course at Pinkerton.
- All high school students **MUST** keep an electronic portfolio. This portfolio will contain materials that will be taken from the student's classes during that student's entire high school career. Successful completion (not defined as of yet) of this portfolio will be accompanied by a ½ credit of high school technology credit which is needed for graduation.
- Another option for students to receive their ½ credit in technology would be to take a course that uses technology heavily. While students can be granted their technology ½ credit in this manner all students still **MUST** keep a portfolio of their electronic projects.

Pinkerton is currently in the process of working with Chester, Derry, and Hampstead to transition students to these new rules. All of the details have not been worked out yet; however, before you select your courses we wanted to let you know what has changed and to give you some pointers as to what might be done.

- Pinkerton is working on a process to give students the ability to take advanced technology coursework (without the middle school portfolio) by using the computer literacy courses taken in the middle schools as evidence of their competency in basic technology skills. This would prevent the need for students to take an introductory computer course (such as Computer Applications 1) before taking the more advanced course.
- Shortly a folder will be found in your network folder which will be labeled portfolio. You should put any completed electronic projects (not drafts) from any of your Pinkerton classes (not middle school projects) into this folder. This could include PowerPoint projects, word processed documents, spreadsheets, graphic arts projects, multimedia projects, etc. that you have completed this year. A rubric is being generated (using the state's criteria) which will be used to assess the portfolio. You will be given this rubric when it is finished so that you will have a better idea of what must be included in the portfolio. If you put your final version of each project in this folder they will be available when it comes time to assess the portfolio later in your high school career.
- Review your course plan for the next 3 years and determine if you will be taking any courses that use technology extensively. Currently Pinkerton is reviewing our computer intensive courses to create a list of courses which meets the state standards as a technology course. This list will be distributed to students when it has been completed. You will be able to receive your ½ credit in technology by taking one of these courses.

As soon as the details of Pinkerton's process crystallize we will notify you so that you can develop your plan to obtain your ½ credit in technology for graduation. We are sorry for the concern that such a change causes for you and your parents. We will work to live up to the intent of the new standards created by the State of New Hampshire while assisting our students as best we can to get through this transition period.