

Extended Learning Opportunities At MVHS

By Kristi Perreault
MVHS '13

When they hear the word "school," most people think of a seven-hour day, five days a week in a school building, with classrooms and structure. What these people do not realize, however, is that students at Merrimack Valley High School (MVHS) have the ability to study outside of the classroom walls and do something that they enjoy or something that benefits the community.

This activity could be anything from volunteering at a newspaper or instructing a class, to taking an online course or interning somewhere. These activities are known as Extended Learning Opportunities, or ELOs, and they allow the student to receive school credit for learning they do outside of school.

There are, of course, some guidelines and regulations to these ELOs. If you were an MVHS student applying for an ELO, you would first need to write a business letter to the ELO committee, and in this letter, specify certain criteria such as what the project is, how it would enhance your education, how long the project would last, and so on.

From there, the ELO committee, comprised of teachers and administrators, would review the letter and reject or approve the idea. Most ELO requests do pass and are really only rejected if

you would not benefit from the experience, or if you have five or more previous credits earned from ELOs.

Once the project has been passed, you would begin your ELO experience, project, or activity. At the end of your ELO, you would be required to hand in a "final assessment" to the ELO committee to show how you have improved and how the ELO has benefited you.

This assessment can take several different forms; it could be a presentation, a research paper, a portfolio, or the like. The ELO committee would then evaluate this final, and you would receive a partial or full credit, depending on what the ELO committee deems appropriate.

ELOs are great ways to learn something outside of the classroom. They give students more real-world experience and let them do something they chose to do on their own time for their benefit.

If any MVHS student is interested in applying for an ELO or would like to find out more about the program, there are forms and information online at MVHS.mvsd.k12.nh.us.

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2011-2012 - First Term • Andover Students

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- Edie Corey
- Adam Ellis
- Rhianna Newton

2012 • Honors

- Danielle Adams
- Chantal Caron
- Brendan Coll
- Ashleigh Fife
- Ashley Lamson
- India Thompson
- Jonathon Wagner

2013 • High Honors

- Mariah Lansdown-Howard
- Kristi Perreault

2013 • Honors

- Jason Ashburn
- Ethan Barton
- Stephanie Croteau
- Timothy Grover
- Dylan Howe
- Marissa Laro
- Maryjane Wittel

2014 • High Honors

- Katelyn Ashburn
- Skyler Smith
- Rebekah Stearns

2014 • Honors

- Haley Adams
- Erin Frost
- Kody Keller
- Kyle Keller
- Emily Lance
- Trisha McDonald
- Philemont Ponzi

2015 • High Honors

- Vincent Bolte
- Tia Hoyt
- Alyson Mullett

2015 • Honors

- Nicole Barton
- Jeffery Bates
- Heather Lamos
- Shelby Perreault
- Elijah Shedd
- Nicholas Terwilliger
- Hannah Veinotte
- Fiona White
- Amy Wittel



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