POOLESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
INDEPENDENT STUDIES PROGRAM
WHOLE SCHOOL MAGNET PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Earning an ISP certificate demonstrates that students have gone above and beyond the basic graduation requirements to pursue a rigorous, focused plan of study. All ISP students are encouraged to take Honors or AP classes, as appropriate. Students have opportunities to explore college and career pathways and to seek learning experiences outside of the classroom by participating in educational field trips and leadership opportunities. In consultation with their counselors, students decide on a plan of study in one of the ISP Areas of Focus (see below), to be completed by the end of their senior year.

The ISP Senior Portfolio records and provides evidence of the following requirements:

1. **4.0⁺ credits in a focus area of choice.**
2. **Journal Reflection**—For each course in the area of focus, students will submit a written reflection which links the content and concepts taught in the class to the chosen college/career pathway, along with other independent research.
3. **Field Experience Hours**—Students will complete at least 50-75 hours of work (paid or volunteer) committed to exploring or providing service in the chosen career pathway and produce a reflection on the work completed. Depending on the experience, student service learning hours could be earned toward those required for graduation.
4. **Senior Portfolio Presentation** before a review committee - Culminating presentations must be executed at a sophisticated level in order for students to attain the ISP Certification.

AREAS OF FOCUS	REQUIREMENT - 4.0 CREDITS FROM THE FOLLOWING COURSES*
Project Lead the Way	Students enrolled in *Project Lead the Way* must submit the following items in order to receive an ISP Certificate: ● Engineering Journal ● Engineering Project ● Project Presentation ● Project Reflection ● All materials will be submitted for both the PLTW certificate and ISP certificate
Internship Capstone Class	Students enrolled in the *Internship Capstone Class* must submit the following items in order to receive an ISP Certificate: ● Complete 50-75 hours of work certified by your site supervisor ● Complete the Capstone reflections as part of your coursework ● Submit and present portions of the Capstone project and reflections during the Senior Symposium

Summer Work or Internships	Students enrolled in one of the following (*Summer Work or Internships, Paid Employment, SSL or Volunteer Work, or Community Service Project*) must submit the following items in order to receive an ISP Certificate:
	
	● 50-75 hours of paid or volunteer work in the same organization
	● Prepare a portfolio that includes
	   o Resume
	   o 4-course connection reflections
	   o A detailed description of the organization and their mission
	   o Reflection of the work completed
	   o Future plans
	● Poster and presentation for the Senior Symposium

Paid Employment	
SSL or Volunteer Work	
Community Service Project	