

To Whom It May Concern,

Brewster High School is interested in launching a Senior Options Program. This letter is intended to inform you of the program, and to ask if your organization would be interested in working with our twelfth grade students.

What is The Senior Options Program?

The Senior Options program would be the culmination of students' careers at Brewster High School. It would allow students to extend the skills and knowledge they have developed in school by applying them in areas of personal interest. To ensure that their experience will be rigorous and worthwhile, seniors will work closely with faculty members in developing their options. This is a highly structured and organized model. Senior Options would begin in early May and continue to the end of the academic year. Students can work individually or in groups; they cannot be paid for their work. Seniors have considerable flexibility in the options they choose; among possible options are community service, internships, and independent projects. The Senior Options Steering Committee monitors and must approve all Senior Options proposals. We are hoping to create a pilot program for this in the spring of 2011. In order to do this, we need the support of community organizations and local businesses. Each week, students would be required to commit to 25 hours of service-based learning with your organization.

Why should my organization participate in this program as a sponsor?

If you decide to work with The Brewster High School Senior Options program, there are many benefits for organizations that decide to utilize young people as volunteers:

- New energy, ideas, and enthusiasm as well as specialized skills that young people can bring to the organization (such as community skills). Inca Mohamed writes , "Every young person, like every adult, has unique abilities and experience that can expand the capacities and outcomes of [social change] efforts" (Mohamed, 2001, p. 15).
- Increased public support and visibility in the community as young people become ambassadors for the agency in their schools, homes, and other networks.
- New partnerships and resources that emerge when agencies for service-learning partnerships with schools, youth development organizations, faith-based organizations or others that provide service-learning as part of their programming.
- By working with youth and getting them committed to its mission, an organization cultivates a new generation of volunteers for either their own organization or their broader cause.

Please contact Elizabeth Higgins (ehiggins@brewsterschools.org or 1- 845- 279 5051 ext 128) if you are interested in working with us, and would like more information about the Senior Options Program. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Higgins

Assistant Principal

Brewster High School

