



Central School District

196 Main Street, New Paltz, New York 12561 • Phone: (845)256-4100 • Fax: (845)256-4109 •

www.newpaltz.k12.ny.us

Dr. Samuelle Simms
Principal

Kathleen Schneck-Suma
Assistant Principal

2023-2024 INDEPENDENT STUDY CALENDAR

FALL 2023

Friday, October 13 Application deadline

Monday, October 23 Interview Students
Tuesday, October 24

Friday, January 12 Final Presentations

SPRING 2024

Friday, March 1 Application deadline

Monday, March 11 Interview students
Tuesday, March 12

Wednesday, June 5 Final presentations
Thursday, June 6

If you submitted your application in the fall and are only doing a half-year Independent Study, your final presentation will be on January 12, 2024.

If you submitted your application in the fall or January 2024 for the school year, your final presentation will be scheduled during the first week of June.

If you have any questions please talk with your school counselor.

7.12.23

“New Paltz High School...caring, connecting, and making a difference.”

New Paltz Central High School Mission Statement:

“To become a community of learners that emphasizes mutual respect and responsibility in which everyone realizes their potential.”



Central School District

196 Main Street, New Paltz, New York 12561 • Phone: (845)256-4100 • Fax: (845)256-4109 • www.newpaltz.k12.ny.us

Dr. Samuelle Simms
Principal

Kathleen Schneck-Suma
Assistant Principal

2023-2024 INDEPENDENT STUDY CHECKLIST

The student is responsible for completing the items on this checklist

Student's Name

Supervising Teacher's Name

- I. Checklist of Requirements:
- a. _____ Title of Independent Study
 - b. _____ Explanation of the rationale for study
 - c. _____ Schedule of meetings with Mentor/Supervising Teacher
 - d. _____ Summary of Work
 - e. _____ Assessment Procedures
- II. Signatures:
- a. _____ Student
 - b. _____ Mentor
 - c. _____ Supervising Teacher
 - d. _____ Parent
 - e. _____ Counselor
 - f. _____ Principal
- III. Date: _____

SUBMIT CHECKLIST TO HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

"New Paltz High School...caring, connecting, and making a difference."

New Paltz Central High School Mission Statement:

"To become a community of learners that emphasizes mutual respect and responsibility in which everyone realizes their potential."

**NEW PALTZ HIGH SCHOOL
INDEPENDENT STUDY APPLICATION**

NAME: _____

TITLE OF STUDY: _____

RATIONALE FOR STUDY: _____

TIME PERIOD OF STUDY: _____

SUMMARY OF WORK TO BE DONE:

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS WITH MENTOR: _____

PROJECTED PRESENTATION FORMAT: _____

INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAM GENERAL GUIDELINES

NEW PALTZ HIGH SCHOOL

1. RATIONALE and OVERVIEW

Independent studies are intended to provide NPHS students with opportunities to pursue specialized topics of particular interest to them in greater depth than is possible in concurrently scheduled topics of particular interest to them in greater depth than is possible in concurrently scheduled courses. To mention a few of the many possible examples, an independent study might be done in:

- i. Social Studies, focusing on one social topic as it is manifest in different parts of the world, or focusing on many aspects of a particular part of the world:
- ii. English, focusing on an area of literature or a particular literary endeavor:
- iii. Science, focusing on an extended science project on a chosen topic:
- iv. An Interdisciplinary Area, combining several traditional disciplines, which bear on a single topic.

By an independent study, we mean a course done by a single student in which the traditional role of a teacher is replaced by that of a mentor. Normal a teacher gives daily lessons and assignments, and monitors student closely to insure that they learn those lessons and do those assignments. No faculty member will be asked to organize and monitor a course for single student to this degree. Instead, a faculty member (or other adult) serving as a mentor for an independent study is expected to provide expertise, guidance and overview, but the motivation and initiative for doing the work must come from the student. Credit will be awarded in the end in those cases where the student actually completes the contracted work.

2. INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANCE

It will be the responsibility of the Student to secure the assistance of a NPHS faculty member to act as a Supervising Teacher and an adult Mentor for the study. Often the same person will play these two roles, but sometimes the Mentor will be an outside person.

- i. Supervising Teacher. This will be a faculty member in the subject area of the study who will approve the initial application, review the final work, and assign a grade for the course.
- ii. Mentor. This will be an adult who will meet regularly with the Student to provide the guidance necessary to carry out the study. Often this person will also be the Supervising Teacher, but it is hoped that community members will assist in this capacity to open more possibilities to more students and to reduce the workload on the faculty.

3. QUALIFICATIONS

Because independent studies require a high level of maturity and responsibility on the part of the Student, they are not for all students. In order to qualify for independent study, a Student must convince a Supervising Teacher (and a Mentor, if they are not the same person) that he or she has the maturity, the ability, and the perseverance to complete the proposed independent work. Since it will normally require time to establish this kind of rapport with a particular teacher, it would be expected that most independent studies would be done by juniors and seniors.