

**Vista Grande High School**  
**Expectations of Student Proficiency**  
With associated Learning Outcomes  
*(Last revised August 16, 2006)*

OVERVIEW: In a Graduation Portfolio, each student will have to meet Vista Grande's Expectations of Student Proficiency (ESPs). Under each broad ESP will be several Learning Outcomes—"I can" statements that define a desired proficiency. Over the years, VGHS faculty will create projects that, when completed satisfactorily by a student, will meet several Learning Outcomes at a time. At the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> grade and the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> grade, students will choose from projects they have completed that meet certain Learning Outcomes and place them in their Digital Portfolio. At 10<sup>th</sup> grade, students will defend their portfolio to demonstrate proficiency to enter the 11<sup>th</sup> grade and have the right to be an independent learner. At 12<sup>th</sup> grade, students will defend their portfolio to demonstrate the right to graduate.

**I. Effective Expression in Speech, Writing and the Arts**

- 1) I can articulate and thoughtfully defend a persuasive, solution-based position.
- 2) I can appropriately use different writing styles for different purposes
- 3) I can express multiple sides of an issue.
- 4) I can express social content and personal beliefs through a combination of dance, music, theatre/drama and/or visual art.

**II. Comprehension and Application**

- 1) I can identify meaning and intent in other's words, actions, and/or images.
- 2) I can synthesize multiple sources of information to develop a coherent data-based position on a topic.
- 3) I can consistently and correctly apply concepts of algebra and geometry to achieve solutions to complex, real-world problems.
- 4) I can use the scientific method to investigate my research questions.
- 5) I can synthesize and evaluate print, audio, and/or visual material and utilize this information in a practical application.

**III. Self-Direction and Reflective Learning**

1. I can discern quality in my own work and constructively use feedback to improve.
2. I can identify my own strengths and personal challenges and use this information to further myself.
3. I can articulate how I've changed over time and where I want to go next.
4. I can articulate my own moral and ethical philosophy (my own code of conduct).
5. I can identify and pursue my own intellectual, artistic and vocational passions.
6. I can initiate projects, set goals, develop plans, assess performance, and revise actions in order to achieve desired outcomes.
7. I demonstrate responsibility, self-discipline, passion and perseverance as I strive for high quality final products.
8. I recognize when poor habits and actions affect my mental and physical health, and I can make wise choices and create habits and goals that keep me healthy and fit.

#### **IV. Citizenship**

1. I can collaborate effectively with my peers-- and develop strategies for including persons of diverse backgrounds and abilities--to finish an undertaking with quality.
2. I can be a committed, integral, engaged member of a group promoting a better society.
3. I can engage in active listening skills and non-violent communication practices.
4. I can recognize the influence of peer pressure and make my own appropriate decisions anyway.
5. I can take responsibility for the consequences of my actions.
6. I can discern quality in others' work and provide specific feedback that constructively leads to next steps.

#### **V. World Cultures, Languages and the Environment**

1. I can demonstrate an insightful understanding of the products, practices, and perspectives of other cultures and historical periods.
2. I can articulate specific strategies for social improvement that have been used across multiple cultures and times.
3. I can read, write and speak in English and Spanish.
4. I can articulate how literature, media, and current events express the larger human experience.
5. I understand the need to act as a steward for this fragile planet and recognize both my own and humanity's responsibility to future generations.

#### **VI. Use of Technology**

1. I use appropriate skills and technologies to locate, organize, and communicate or present information.
2. I am proficient in the use of word processing, spreadsheets, digital imaging and presentation software.
3. I can discern between and properly apply a variety of technologies to address real-world situations and needs.

#### **IX. Required Experiences \***

1. 9<sup>th</sup> grade backpack trips and solo
  2. 9<sup>th</sup> grade Presentation of Learning
  3. 10<sup>th</sup> grade development of and defense of 10<sup>th</sup> grade Digital Portfolio
  4. 10<sup>th</sup> grade cultural immersion
  5. 10<sup>th</sup> grade pass the NM HS competency exam (NMHSSA? NMHSCE?)
  6. 11<sup>th</sup> grade leadership and specialization
  7. 11<sup>th</sup> grade mentoring
  8. 12<sup>th</sup> grade application to a college or other post-secondary institution
  9. 12<sup>th</sup> grade independent project
  10. 12<sup>th</sup> grade development and defense of Graduation Digital Portfolio
  11. Earn 24 credits across the required subject areas
- *Exemptions of required experiences can only be made with the Vista Grande Instructional Guide or other authorized personnel.*