



**The MHS Global Education in Melrose (GEM) Program** is designed to foster students' global awareness, to recognize the accomplishments of students who represent the school around the globe, and to provide graduates with the essential skills for participating in and contributing to an increasingly global society.

**GEM** participants have the opportunity to engage in various school and community programs including cultural exchanges, the study of foreign language and culture, individually designed study programs, and community service activities while at Melrose High School. At graduation, **GEM** participants will earn a certificate recognizing their ability to:

- **Think Globally:** have an increased knowledge of their relationship to the world; think about issues from a global point of view; and gain an appreciation for other world cultures, viewpoints, and perspectives
- **Communicate Effectively:** improve their foreign language skills and their ability to communicate with people across cultural and language differences
- **Contribute Responsibly:** use their global knowledge to interact and build relationships with people from other cultures; actively seek world knowledge to develop their own values and opinions; demonstrate respect, open-mindedness, understanding, and flexibility in behavior and thinking; help others to embrace multiple perspectives.

*The following list contains the criteria that must be met in order to obtain a certificate from GEM:*

### **I. Foreign Travel Component**

- Approved programs must provide an international experience in which the student challenges him/herself to connect to and interact with the culture and the people directly.
- A financial commitment from the student to cover some of the program costs is encouraged so that the student gains an awareness of travel costs and develops a level of commitment to the experience from the start.
- A degree of student involvement in planning and decision making for the trip is encouraged so that the student gains confidence in his/her ability to be a self-sufficient world traveler.

*Proposals for non-international, inter-cultural experiences will be considered for approval on a case-by-case basis by the **GEM** Review Committee (Committee). Suitable substitutions for international travel must involve immersion in another culture and/or foster global-awareness.*

*All students wishing to apply a travel experience toward **GEM** certification must select a program from the **MHS** Approved Travel Program List (website) or obtain approval in advance of the trip by completing a **GEM** Travel Experience Form and submitting it to the Committee. Students who participated in an international travel program prior to the launch of the **GEM** Program in 2009, may submit a proposal for approval retroactively, as long as the travel took place while the student was in high school.*

## **II. Academic Component**

- Students must study a world language through Level 4 and receive a grade of C or above each year.

*Alternate approaches may be applied toward satisfaction of the **GEM** academic requirement on a case-by-case basis. Students must submit a completed **GEM** Academic Alternative Proposal Form to the Committee.*

## **III. Global Focus Project**

- Students must select an aspect of a foreign country or a region's culture, political system, history, geography or economy, and engage in a minimum of three activities that will enable them to explore this area of interest.
- The Focus Project activities must be completed outside of assigned class work and the **GEM** travel experience. These activities may include, but are not limited to, reading books that create global awareness, watching films, preparing culinary specialties, and attending cultural events or lectures.

*A double-spaced, 3-4 page essay, synthesizing what the student has learned from these activities must be submitted as part of the Portfolio.*

## **IV. Community Service Component**

- The equivalent of 30 hours of Community Service must be **GEM** related.
- The **GEM** Community Service Project must expose the student to another world culture and should, ideally, employ his/her foreign language skills.
- A **GEM** travel experience that includes at least 30 hours of community service also satisfies the **GEM** community service requirement.

*Students must include the completed **GEM** Global Service Form in their Portfolios.*

*Proposals may be submitted for approval retroactively by students who participated in an applicable community service program prior to the launch of the **GEM** program in 2009. Community service opportunities will be considered for approval on a case-by-case basis. These requests must be submitted to the Committee prior to the student's completing the service, using the **GEM** Global Service Form.*

### **0+300V. GEM Portfolio and Reflection Project**

Upon completion of the **GEM** requirements, each student will present a portfolio to the Committee. Portfolios will be reviewed each spring. Completed portfolios may be emailed to John Buxton, Director of Guidance, at [jbuxton@melrose.mec.edu](mailto:jbuxton@melrose.mec.edu), or left in the **GEM** mailbox in the Guidance Office. Students are advised to keep a copy of their completed portfolios for their own records. The portfolio must include the following:

- The completed and approved **GEM Travel Experience Form**
- The completed and approved **GEM Academic Alternative Proposal Form** (if applicable)
- The completed **GEM Focus Project Form and essay**
- The completed and approved **GEM Global Service Form**
- A **GEM Résumé** (see format and sample résumé on **GEM** website)
- A Summative Essay of 250-500 words, reflecting the student's **GEM** experience.

*Following the Portfolio review, the student will be informed if s/he has successfully earned a certificate. Student will be awarded certificates at graduation. Guidance counselors will include information about the MHS **GEM Program** in the School Profile.*

*The GEM Review Committee meets quarterly throughout the school year. The GEM Review Committee is composed of MHS school staff and Melrose community members.*

*Applications for the GEM Program are available in the MHS Guidance Office and on the website at: [www.melroseschools.com](http://www.melroseschools.com).*