

9/8/17

Greetings SJS Parents!

My name is Tara Neaderhiser, and I will be guiding your children on an adventure through discovering passions and creativity during Genius Hour. Depending upon the age of your child/children, students will be provided with 20-40 minutes per week to complete brainstorming, research, and project presentation development on a topic of their choice. This incredible opportunity allows your child to delve deeper into a topic of their personal choice, sparking a desire to learn while teaching a few research techniques along the way.

So far, I have begun working with students in grades 2, 4, 6, and 8. In October, I will be shifting toward grades 1, 3, 5, and 7 which will give the even numbered grades a break off in order to look at their topic with new insight after Christmas break. Students will be given a specific goal to accomplish each week during class time and potentially a little time at home to gather needed materials.

Please ask your child about his/her topic question (if they have already begun Genius Hour).

Topics should allow depth of research-- beyond a simple Google search answer. Within this next week, students will be needing a nonfiction book related to their topic. Books and materials can come from home, a public library, the school library, or an online academic journal for the upper level students. Some students may even be interested in visiting a site for ideas or to speak with a mentor. Neither of these are required, but they can provide an additional source for some students. These activities would be completed outside of class time.

After New Year, the project ideas will be rolling. I will have some basic supplies on hand, but other items like posters, clay, etc. may need to be brought from home. (\*\*Students will be responsible for the care and security of their own supplies.)

Questions along the way? You are more than welcome to send me an email.

Here's to a great adventure of discovery!

Mrs. Tara Neaderhiser

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