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**Dear Students and Parents:**

The AT students will be participating in Genius Hour this year. Genius Hour in the classroom developed from a concept started at Google. The search-engine giant, Google, allows its engineers to spend 20% of their time to work on any pet project that they want. The idea is very simple. Allow people to work on something that interests them, and productivity will go up. Google’s policy has worked so well that it has been said that 50% of Google’s projects have been created during this creative time period. Ever heard of Gmail or Google News? These projects are the creations of passionate developers that blossomed from their 20% time projects.

**Goals of this project:**

1. To promote, support, and model creative, innovative thinking and inventiveness.
2. To allow students an opportunity to discover/investigate one of their passions and reflect on/share their learning with others.
3. To provide students and teachers an opportunity to develop skill sets that are valuable in any learning situation (research, experimentation, collaboration, creativity, problem solving and critical thinking).
4. To provide an opportunity for classes to share their ‘Genius and Passion Projects with others.

**The Process - Question, Research, Create, Share**, and **Question:**

**Question:** Students will first come up with a driving question about a topic they are interested in. This question must be something that can not be easily answered by a simple web search.

**Research:** Students will be free to research their own project with my and their peers’ support. Students will conduct the majority of their research online, through search engines such as Google, as well as through databases available through the Media Center online system. Students may also conduct research by speaking with and interviewing specialists in the field if feasible.

**Create:** Students will be given time to create a final project which showcases their question, research, and results. This could look like a movie, a model, a poster, a brochure, or whatever else the student has in mind.

**Share:** The culmination of Genius Hour will be to share their project with the class as well as the school and community.

Thank you for your support! If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Krapf