**Dear Students and Parents:**

**The Genius Hour Project**

I am excited to introduce you to Genius Hour. This is something we will be doing this year, if you choose to participate. 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 creations by 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.

1. 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).

1. To provide an opportunity for classes to share their ‘Genius and Passion Projects’ with

others.

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

Students will come up with a question that they are interested in.

**Research:** Students will be free to research their own project with the support of their classroom teachers and technology specialist. While students are researching, it is our goal to have students using the internet to search for information about their specific project. They will be using google and other search engines.

**Create:** Students will be given time to create something to share their idea. This could look like a movie, a model, a poster, a brochure, whatever the student has in mind.

**Share:** The culmination of Genius Hour will be to share their project with their fourth grade classes and the world.

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

**Cheers to Genius, Creativity, and Innovation,**

**{Teacher’s Names Here}**