**Dear Students and Parents:**

**The Passion Project**

I am excited to introduce you to the concept of ‘Passion Project’. This type of project based learning is happening in hundreds of schools and some of the larger companies. Search-engine giant, Google, allows its engineers to spend 20% of their time to work on any personal project that they want. The idea is very simple. Allow people to work on something that interests them, and productivity will go up along with meaningful learning. 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 passion projects.

**Goals for this project in class:**

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 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 students to share their ‘Passion Projects’ with

others.

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

Students will come up with a question they have about something they are interested in learning more about.

**Research:** Students will be free to research their own project with the support of their classroom teacher, classroom aide, technology specialist, and volunteers. 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 in the form of a presentation. This could look like a movie, a model, a poster, a brochure, whatever the student has in mind.

**Share:** The culmination activity will be to share their project with others.

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

**Cheers to genius, creativity, and innovation!**

**Mrs. Luka**