

Genius Hour



Building *Passionate* Learners

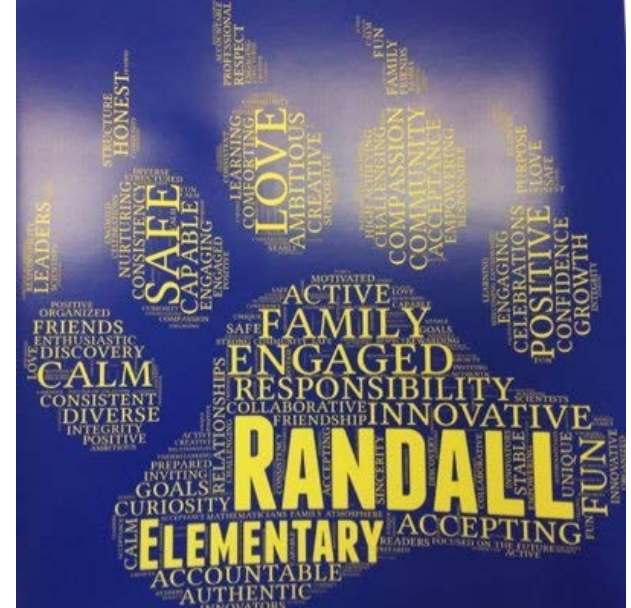
Bobby McCutcheon
Principal, Randall Elementary
Independence School District



@fight4mizzou and @RandallElementary

About our school...

- ❑ Bobby McCutcheon (13 years in public education; 8 years admin)
- ❑ Principal, **Randall Elementary**, Independence School District
- ❑ ~85% Free/Reduced; Diverse student population
- ❑ PK-5 building; 300 students (275 K-5).
- ❑ Highly Transient Population



About our School

- ❑ Serve one of the largest subsidized housing subdivisions in the Midwest (nearly 2,000 residents).
- ❑ High levels of trauma and crisis
- ❑ Our students face limited exposure to anything beyond our neighborhood.

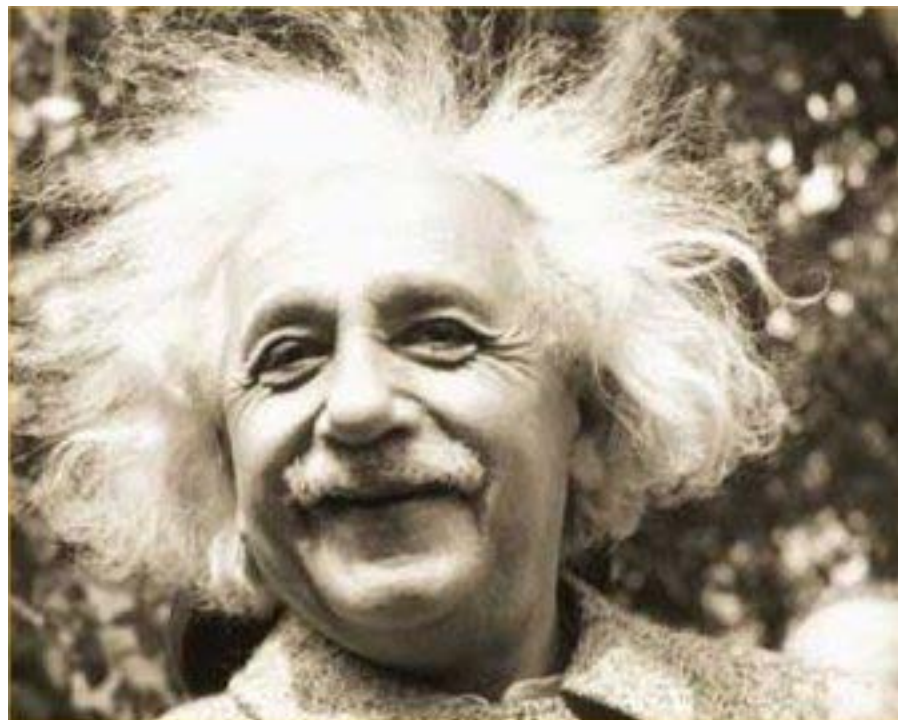


Our Agenda

the PURPOSE, the PLAN, the PROJECTS

Are YOU a Genius?

Yes!!!



CHOICE TIME

Project-Based Learning

Genius Hour

20% Time

Passion Projects

What is Genius Hour?

Genius Hour is...

It is a place where students learn by **DOING** and **CREATING!**

Genius Hour is about **self-discovery** and the pursuit of
CURIOSITY!

It is about **PASSION!**

Genius Hour is...

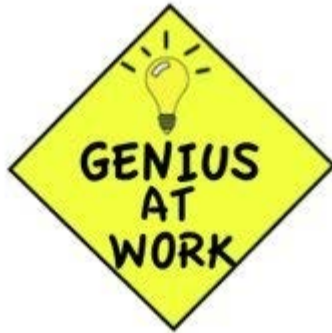
Students self-select projects based on these three questions:

What is **YOUR** passion?

What **INSPIRES** you?

What gets you **EXCITED**?

Students work on their projects over the course of 9-12 weeks
culminating in a **Genius Hour Showcase**.



the PURPOSE

Promotes high-levels of **CRITICAL THINKING** and **PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS**.

Engages students and helps them identify their **PASSIONS**,
creating life long learners.

Teaches students 21st century **RESEARCH** skills .

the PURPOSE

Promotes high levels of **STUDENT COLLABORATION**

Makes learning **FUN AND RELEVANT**

the PURPOSE

Helps students **see beyond their own neighborhood.**

Exposes students to **new opportunities** and **possibilities.**

the PURPOSE

...did you miss the slide about increasing scores on your state assessment?



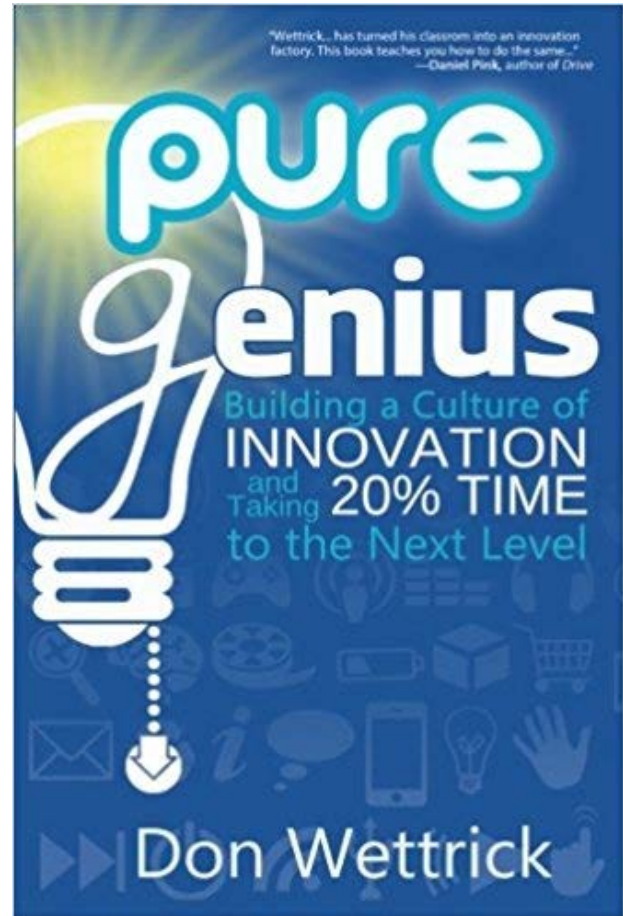
the PURPOSE

“One of the key benefits of a passion-based project is that students learn how to love learning.”

- Don Wettrick



<http://www.startedupinnovation.com/>



the PLAN

- ❑ Meet 45 minutes every Friday (9 week cycles).
- ❑ Grades 3-5
- ❑ Additional support staff--
Reading Specialist and Literacy
Tech. Integrationist.

NUTS
&
BOLTS

the PLAN

Four Academies:

1. Randall **Service**
2. Randall **STEM (1 and 2)**
3. Randall **Spark**
4. Randall **STAR**

the PLAN

Only requirement for participation is that students must have all classwork, reading logs, and homework complete for the week.

Genius Hour Calendar 16-17

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
SEP 13 Set up Google Clsrm Bobby to Classrooms Week 1	14 Brainstorming Tournament Bracket	15 Brainstorming Tournament Bracket	16 Brainstorming Tournament Bracket	17 1st Session in Clsrm Shark Tank Slides
19 Shark Tank Slides Week 2	20 Shark Tank Slides	21 Kate push in Resources: Symbaloo , World Book	22 Shark Tank Slides	23 Shark Tank Slides Present to whole class
26 Assign Academies Week 3	27 Add Ss to Academy Clsrm	28 7:15 Academies Mtg.	29	30 Academies Question formulation
OCT 3 Week 4	4	5		7 Question formulation/research

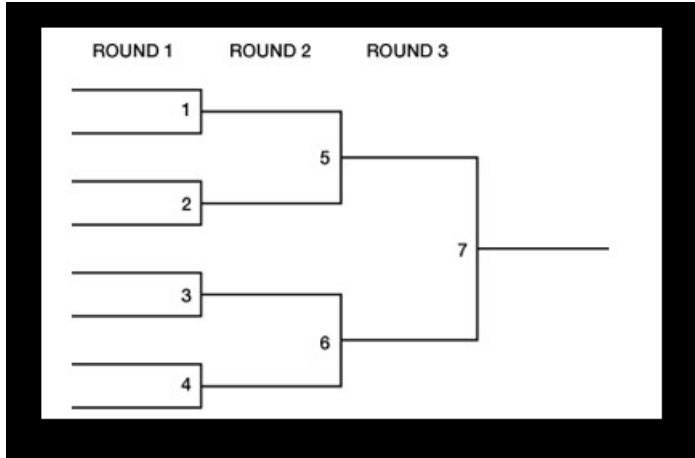
10 Week 5	11	12	13	14 Research
17 Week 6	18	19	20	21
24 Add Ss to Academy Clsm Week 7	25	26	27	28
31 Week 8	NOV 1	2	3	4 Last Session Presentations Complete
7 Book Fair Week 9	8 Book Fair	9 Book Fair	10 Book Fair	11 Present to Parents at Chili Cook Off Book Fair

the PLAN

Genius Hour Calendar 16-17 (2nd Semester)

Week 1: Jan 13	Brainstorm and Narrow Topics in classrooms
Week 2: Jan 20	Brainstorm and Narrow Topics in classrooms
Week 3: Jan 27	Brainstorm and Narrow Topics in classrooms
Week 4: Feb 3	Generate 3 Questions (Introduction Slide)
Week 5: Feb 10	Research Question 1 (Paragraph 2 Slide)
Week 6: Feb 17	Research Question 2 (Paragraph 3 Slide)
Week 7: Feb 24	Research Question 3 (Paragraph 4 Slide)
Week 8: Mar 3	Finalize Slides (Conclusion Slide)
Week 9: Mar 17	Finalize Slides (Pictures, Videos, etc.)

the PLAN - Selecting Topics



Genius Hour Project Proposal

1. What is your proposed topic? _____
2. What are the top 3 inquiry-based questions you brainstormed about your topic?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
3. Why are these questions important to you?
4. What do you hope to learn?
5. How do you plan to share your project with others?
6. What materials will you need?
7. On the back, list some ways that I can support you and your project.

the PLAN

Should you assign a grade for Genius Hour?

What are students **REQUIRED** to do?

Genius Hour Covenant:

1. I WILL *pursue* MY interests and not be influenced by those around me.
2. I WILL *utilize* ALL available resources to become an expert in my field.
3. I WILL *inquire* of my academy teacher whenever a question arises or I am “stuck”.
4. I WILL *support* my academy classmates in their research whenever possible.
5. I WILL *learn* something during Genius Hour that I didn’t know before.

the Plan - Genius Hour Club

- ❑ After School Club
- ❑ Meets weekly for an hour
- ❑ Open to students in grades 4-5
- ❑ Major benefit is that it doesn't disrupt your class schedule

the PROJECTS

CHOREOGRAPHING A DANCE

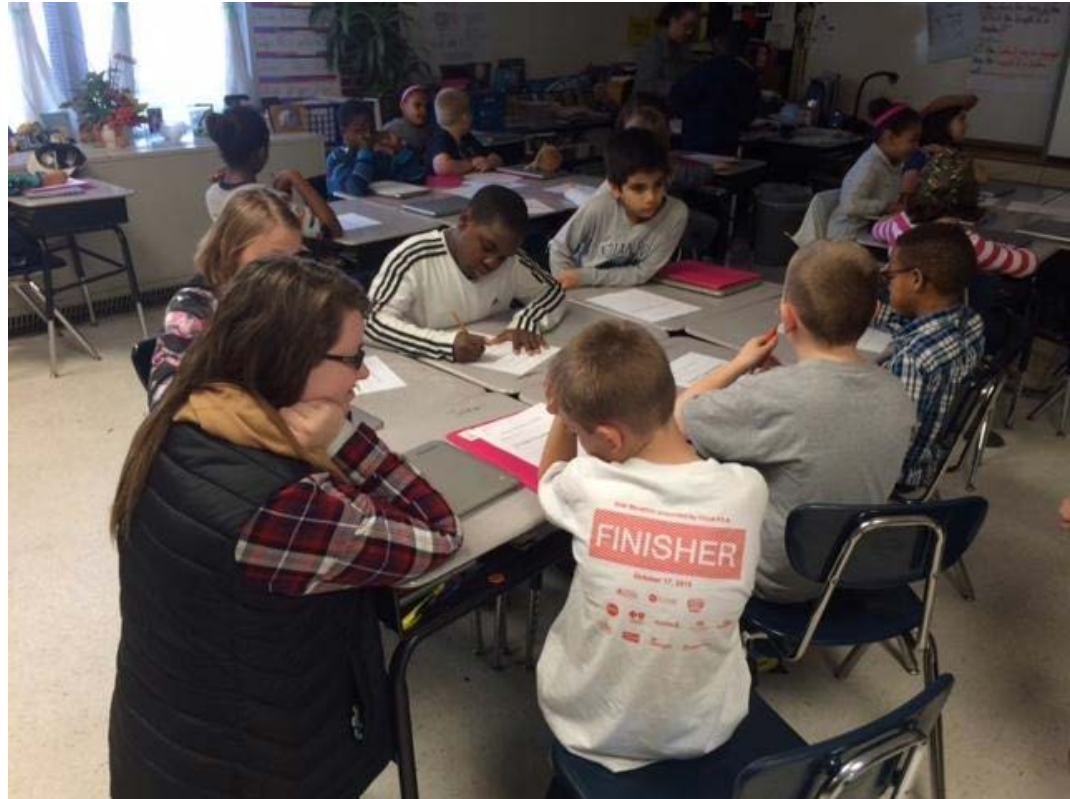
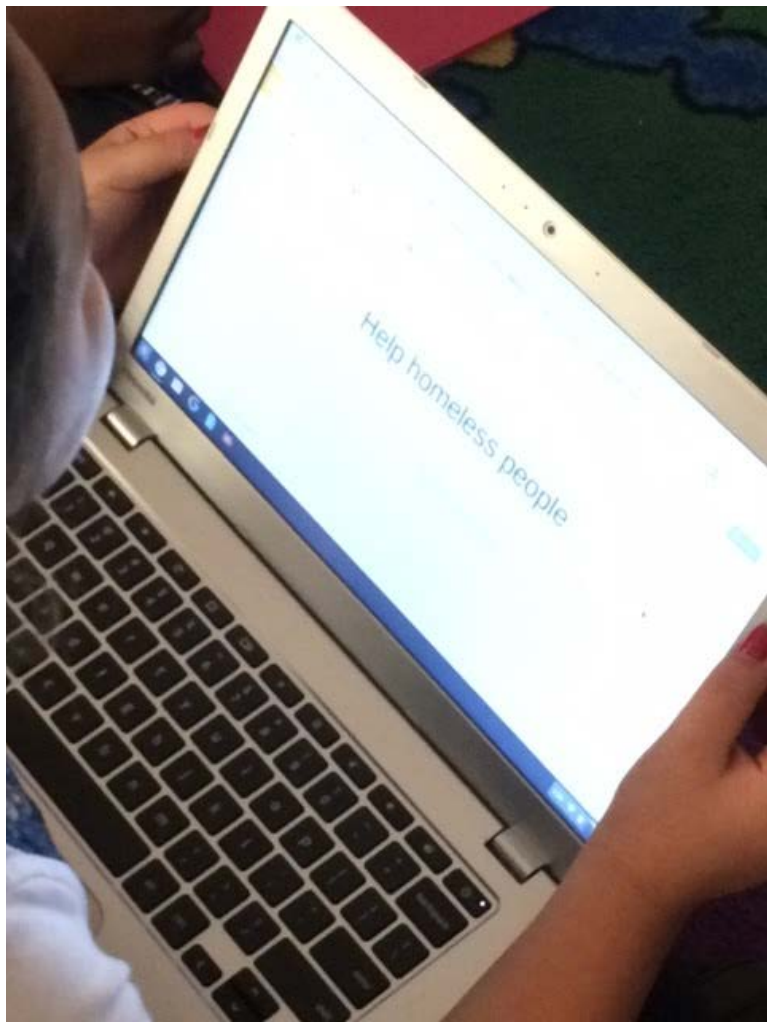
Volleyball/MAP Night

Training Police Dogs

Free Youth Sports
Camps

Making Scarves for the Needy





Randall Elementary - Genius Hour



Questions???

Resources

<http://www.geniushour.com/> (Chris Kesler)

<http://www.theinnovationteacher.com/> (Don Wettrick)

<http://www.ajjuliani.com/>

Thanks for attending today's session!

Please feel free to contact me at:

bobby_mccutcheon@idschools.org



@fight4mizzou and @RandallElementary