

## Goals for Middle School Gifted/Enrichment Classes at PKY

1. Help students understand the special gifts, talents, and needs they possess so as their work loads increase, they can deal with stress as well as become positive and joyful leaders and role models.
2. Help them believe that they can tackle anything creatively; can expand on models; can follow their curiosity and passion as they pursue various projects as I serve as their mentor or guide. Nourish learning for the sake of learning rather than for a grade alone. This requires a huge leap of faith.
3. Develop a love and appreciation (dare I say passion) for language—its purposes, power, puzzles, poetry, formats, and fun. Continue to expand vocabulary (with a focus on SAT words and common words and phrases from other languages) and appreciate the richness and variety of the English language. This will expand on and enrich what students learn in language arts classes rather than intrude on what is happening there.
4. Develop skills needed for effective living and learning (literacy, time management, self awareness, compassion, revising and editing work, planning and producing long-term projects:
  - ~*Seven Habits for Highly Effective Teens*
  - ~ Hey, You Wanna Piece of Me (an introduction of yourself to me and a memoir gift for parents explained on separate handout)
  - ~Enrichment Antholio (explained on separate handout)
  - ~Creative projects of choice
  - ~Service projects of choice
5. Expand skills in writing-- paying attention to focus, organization, supports, and conventions along with depth and maturity of expression and especially creativity and voice. Appreciate and use the writing process. This will build on what is taught in the language arts classes.

These goals complement the five goals listed in the standard **Education Plan for Gifted (EP)**:

- To develop higher levels of thinking
- To develop self-directed learning skills
- To develop a positive self-concept
- To develop positive interpersonal relationships
- To develop creative thinking and expressions

They also complement some goals (stated here in “Education Talk”) that I want to carry on from previous work with gifted middle school students:

- ~Provide opportunities for lifetime learning
- ~Value and develop talent and intuitive ability as well as cognitive capability
- ~Focus on active and cooperative participation with both students and parents
- ~Provide active time and space in which to learn
- ~Encourage students to find their special place in the school, community, and world
- ~Encourage students to develop their special talents and gifts using the guidelines of time management, organization skills, and problem solving strategies

The middle school enrichment program I want to develop at PKY will specifically reflect my belief that education is a trust among teachers, students, and parents. These young minds must be developed, challenged, and nourished with the best that language, literacy, and learning styles can provide. I want these gifted students to celebrate and challenge their genius while giving back to their community. I want them to experience the joy of discovery and the delight of excellence. I want them to learn and use the “laws of language” and to love both the power and whimsy of words. I want them to develop a deeper appreciation for art, music, philosophy, and clear, logical thinking. (As we practice study skills and time management skills, these are the major areas we will explore). I believe all this can be accomplished with patience, love, wonder, imagination, hard work, and fun. I believe in using a variety of evaluation methods to access the breadth and depth of students’ planning, producing, reading, writing, and reflecting.