



KEEPING YOU IN THE LOOP

TO: Parents of Park Middle School Gifted Students

FROM: Dr. Donahue, Gifted Teacher

February 19, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It is my hope that you and your family are keeping warm, safe, and healthy. I realize that there have been many changes and adjustments this year for you and for all of us. It can be confusing. It can be frustrating. It can be worrisome. I want to assure you, though, that your gifted child/teen never fails to impress me with his/her resilience, positive attitude, excellent work ethic, and creativity. Each student comes to class eager to learn and to contribute in a worthwhile manner. Your children/teens inspire me! I am thankful to have an opportunity to work with each student in my class. Your children reflect the love, guidance, and dedication that you have provided them. Take solace in knowing that you have done well as a parent and that your child has responded well to what you have provided them.

This month, the students have had a great deal of fun creating their version of the Clue game with characters, “weapons,” and rooms at Park. They are completing projects of their choosing that depict how children view the world. For African American History Month, we explored the idea of cultural appropriation, and students are now completing essays to reflect upon what they learned. Your students also studied/researched the plan for Covid immunizations in our country and have written suggestions to improve its rollout. I am now compiling those suggestions to send to President Biden. I introduce new vocabulary and teach concepts that will equip them with a broad knowledge base about their world and enable them to converse at most any level in a variety of settings.

There has been some confusion about remote learning for gifted students. If we follow a “regular” schedule (½ students on Mon/Tues; ½ students on Wed/Thur; off on Friday), I will meet with each class for about 15 minutes on Fridays using the TEAMS format. Virtual students may join the meeting scheduled for their grade level, or they may meet with me from 10:00 to 10:15 a.m. Here is the schedule: Virtual Students: 10:00 – 10:15 a.m.; 8th Grade Students: 10:15 – 10:30; 7th Grade Students: 10:30 – 10:45; 6th Grade Students – 10:45 – 11:00. I usually schedule IEP meetings for 11:00 a.m. on Fridays.

Please contact me if you have any concerns/questions or would like to chat about your child’s gifted experience. My email is tammy.donahue@k12.wv.us.