Dear Family,

I am writing to invite you to consider a really cool opportunity: As part of eighth grade English Language Arts, students can choose from a menu of activities to earn Honors credit on their progress reports. One of their options is an independent research project coached by me and the EEE faculty.

The independent research project is an opportunity to pursue a personal interest and can really kick start a student’s academic career. It is designed to culminate in entry into some of the most significant academic competitions available to middle school students and may help spark a career interest.

You don’t have to be an ultra-high-achiever or even in EEE to participate. You just have to be ready to dig deep into something you care about.

I have attached a brief outline of the opportunity. Please take a look and let me know if I can answer any questions about it in person or via e-mail.

To participate, a student need only email me or ask me in person.

Sincerely,

Jake Giessman, Director of Secondary Gifted Services
jgiessman@cpsk12.org
English Language Arts 8 Honors
Independent Research Option (6 points)

What is this?
A big independent project in which you get to write, experiment, design, orate, or film on a topic that you think is really interesting. It can also enter you into some really amazing contests (see next page).

Why do it?
- Lets you work on something you care about
- Gets you extra access to EEE
- Could win you up to $25,000
- Sets you on a path toward the college/career of your dreams

How do I know if I can handle it?
- You can work independently and meet deadlines
- You are excited to do something cool

Who’s going to help me?
- A EEE teacher will meet with you approximately once every other week during English, RTI, or EEE. (See Mr. Giessman’s schedule on last page.)
- In the first meeting, you will pick one of the contests listed on the reverse of this page or suggest an alternative idea. You’ll also agree on how the teacher will decide whether or not to give you the full six points
- In the other meetings, the teacher will conference with you about your progress and teach you things you might need to know to complete your project
- In between each meeting, you will be working on your project and can call on the EEE teacher for extra support
STEM
Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge: Make a 1-2 minute video describing your innovative idea for solving an everyday problem. Win $25,000. Due Dec-Apr.
http://www.youngscientistchallenge.com/


Young Naturalist Awards: 7th and up: Investigate something scientific; write an essay; win $2,500. Due Dec-Feb.
http://www.amnh.org/learn-teach/young-naturalist-awards

Broadcom Masters Competition: Complete a science project; win $25,000. This is the middle school version of Intel STS and ISEF. Due Feb-Jun.
https://student.societyforscience.org/broadcom-masters

Toshiba Exploravision: Envision the development of a technology over the next 20 years; win $10,000. Register team of 2-4 and a mentor/coach early in school year. Due Jan.
http://www.exploravision.org/

Future City: With a small team, design the city of the future and complete researched essays to validate your design; win $5,000. Register by Oct.; due Jan.
http://futurecity.org

Conrad Spirit of Innovation Challenge: With a small team, design an entrepreneurial solution to a tech, health, or environmental problem; get connected to big name scientists and companies. Initial pitch due Oct 17.
http://conradchallenge.org

HUMANITIES
MIT Inspire: Complete research on almost anything you care about outside of math and hard science. Win a trip to MIT. Due Dec.
http://inspirehumanities.mit.edu

Future Problem Solving: Research and write a solution to or short story about a future problem.
http://www.fpspi.org/Components.html

Philosophy Slam: Research and write a 500 word answer to this year’s philosophical question. Due Mar.
http://www.philosophyslam.org/index.html

http://smclearnandearn.com/learnandearn/aboutthecontest

C-SPAN Student Cam: Make a 5-7 minute documentary; win $5,000. Enter Nov-Jan.
http://www.studentcam.org/

National History Day: Create a website, paper, documentary, exhibit, or performance on a historical topic; win $1,000. Due Feb.
http://www.nhd.org

Winston Churchill Student Speech Competition: Deliver a 4-5 minute speech on a leadership topic. Due Jan.
http://www.nationalchurchillmuseum.org/winston-churchill-student-speech-comp.html

Letters about Literature: Write a letter to a favorite author; win an award at the State and even at the U.S. Capitol. Due Dec. [may not qualify for full points]
http://www.read.gov/letters/

Optimists Oratorical and Essay Contests: Give a speech or write an essay on an inspirational topic; win $2,500. Due Jan. [may not qualify for full points]
http://www.oim ozone2.org
Mr. Giessman’s schedule for first semester:

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<th>Gentry</th>
<th>Jeff</th>
<th>Lange</th>
<th>Oakland</th>
<th>Smithton</th>
<th>West</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Visit 1</strong></td>
<td>Wed 8/20</td>
<td>Fri 8/22</td>
<td>Mon 8/25</td>
<td>Wed 8/27</td>
<td>Fri 8/29</td>
<td>Wed 9/3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Visit 2</strong></td>
<td>Fri 9/5</td>
<td>Tue 9/9</td>
<td>Thu 9/11</td>
<td>Mon 9/15</td>
<td>Wed 9/17</td>
<td>Fri 9/19</td>
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<td><strong>Visit 3</strong></td>
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<td>Thu 9/25</td>
<td>Thu 9/30</td>
<td>Thu 10/2</td>
<td>Mon 10/6</td>
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<td><strong>Visit 4</strong></td>
<td>Mon 10/13</td>
<td>Tue 10/14</td>
<td>Thu 10/16</td>
<td>Mon 10/20</td>
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<td><strong>Visit 5</strong></td>
<td>Tue 10/28</td>
<td>Thu 10/30</td>
<td>Mon 11/3</td>
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<td><strong>Visit 6</strong></td>
<td>Mon 11/17</td>
<td>Wed 11/19</td>
<td>Fri 11/21</td>
<td>Mon 12/1</td>
<td>Wed 12/3</td>
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