

Energy Hour

Dear Parents,

We will be introducing our students to ENERGY HOUR!

What is Energy Hour?

Energy Hour is time set aside in class for students to study a new idea or skill that they choose and are passionate about.

Why is Energy Hour important?

Students take ownership in their own learning. Energy Hour sparks curiosity, and students have an opportunity to become their own genius. Energy Hour encourages life-long learning, imagination, perseverance, self-awareness, adaptability, as well as other life-lessons.

How will Energy Hour work in my classroom?

Students will participate in Energy Hour at least twice a week for approximately 30 minutes. After mini-lessons on what is appropriate, students will choose a topic to study with Teacher Approval and Parent Approval. Students will select a topic that they want to learn how to do. As the Facilitator, I will help provide research materials (ie. books, computer, iPads, etc.) for students to explore. As an end project, students must present their learning to an audience (the rest of their class).

How does this fit with the Curriculum?

The great thing about Energy Hour is, not only do students get to pick something they are passionate about to work on, the work they do on the project and the presentation of their work naturally ties in with a number of curriculum objectives and expectations!

Goals of this project:

- to promote, support, and model creative, innovative thinking and inventiveness
- to allow students an opportunity to discover/investigate one of their passions and reflect on/share their learning with others
- provide students and teachers an opportunity to develop skill sets that are valuable in any learning situation (research, experimentation, collaboration, creativity, problem solving and critical thinking)
- to provide an opportunity for classes to share their projects with others

Brainstorming

At the beginning of the Energy Hour course, students will begin brainstorming ideas for a project proposal. While brainstorming, we will encourage students to make the project —Product Focused. At the end of the course we want them to have made something that is a completed product. It could be an activity that they can display, e.g., a dance routine, a baked good; a piece of art; etc. It could also be a digital project like a short film or video game.

As a parent, how can I help?

There are many ways to help. As students decide what they want to do, they will need help expanding their ideas and finding resources. Discussing your child's ideas and helping with where to find some great resources will be extremely important. We will provide some basic resources and technology at school; some students may need more specific items for their project we may not be able to provide. Within reason, helping your child bring together the materials they need will allow them to be more successful with their project. Finally, teachers may need help in the class during the times they are doing Energy Hour. Once we determine the times we will be doing Energy Hour in the week, it would be great if you could let us know if you are available to help. The students will be very excited and the more help we get, the more we can help students stay focused.

We are excited to share this opportunity with your child and we will most likely need to tweak things along the way as we embark on this new adventure of learning.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us through class dojo.

Sincerely,

Ms. Ashbaugh and Mrs. Wooten

