



Brady Middle School
Brian A. Frank, Principal
Darla G. Wagner, Assistant Principal

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October 23, 2017

Dear Parents,

All Brady students will be engaging in a [Passion Project](#) this school year. Also known as "Genius Hour," Passion Projects provide each student the opportunity to explore an interest and develop a project that will be presented to his or her parents and Pride Leader in February.

The implementation of Passion Projects at Brady represents one strategy to increase students' exposure to Project-Based Learning, a district-wide initiative in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an authentic, engaging and complex question, problem, or challenge (Buck Institute for Education).

For 10 weeks (from November 1 through January 24), students will have time during an extended Pride period to work on their projects. Please note that changes to the schedule may be made by teams to accommodate grade level activities, such as 6th grade camp. During this work time, students will conduct research, create their product and develop a presentation, which will culminate in a formal presentation to be held February 20-23. These presentations will allow students to share their project outcomes with their parent and Pride Leader. Scheduling information will be shared with parents in January.

In addition to content mastery, part of our mission as a school is to help our students develop competencies that are essential for lifelong success. Passion Projects will cause our students to apply and reflect on many of [the nine competencies](#) introduced earlier this year. In a formal way, all of our students will receive feedback on their Passion Project presentation via a rubric that has been developed for use across grade levels.

To date, students have spent time mining for their passions and completing a Passion Project idea proposal/defense. Please ask your son or daughter to share with you the topic for his or her project. For more information, please see the [Passion Project guidelines](#), and if you have any questions, please contact your child's Pride Leader.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the teachers from our steering committee: Ursula Apaestegui, Jenna Drozd, Katie Hilber, Lee McClain, Jake Miller, and Kristy Yeckley.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian A. Frank".

Brian A. Frank
Principal