Envision 3rd Grade

Envision program overview:

We are inviting your child to participate in an advanced academic program called Envision. Envision is an exciting, yearlong program designed for gifted learners. The focus of the program is on developing high-level critical thinking and creativity, and encourages students through a real-world-based project called “Pet Parade.” The Envision program requires quite a bit of writing. If your child’s strength is math, you may want to consider some of the other options we have to offer. These are explained in more detail on an additional handout.

Pet Parade is about researching and choosing a future pet to adopt or purchase. For this project, the children will research wide-ranging areas in order to create descriptions of possible pets. Each child will make a pet picture chart, use the computer to create two “recipes” for desirable pets, make an adjective wheel, and illustrate pets’ life cycles. Using this information, each child will select a final pet choice. They will then write a song and a cinquain poem, make a table of pet supplies, design a comic strip, make a chart of chores, design an artistic display of their pet’s name, make a suitable toy for their pet, and create a commercial about their pet. All of these materials will be collected in a portfolio. Next, each child will design and create an exhibit that captures and conveys the highlights of his or her Pet Parade project. The exhibit will include the picture chart, monthly pet care schedule, pet name art, pet, toy and any other items the child chooses to illustrate his or her pet choice. Last, each child will present his or her project and participate in a project exposition.

A Student Instruction Guide will be provided to guide each child, step by step, through this process. The Instruction Guide is a comprehensive list of project requirements and is designed to engage high-level thinking. The guide also references helpful Resource Cards, which provide additional explanations, ideas, tips, and directions. Each child will utilize Google Drive to store all work. In addition, we will update our blog after each session with information about what we covered in class.

Pet Parade is designed for students to work on during our morning sessions, independently during free time at school, and at home. The majority of time spent during our morning sessions will be devoted to teaching skills and new assignments. Therefore, much of the work will need to be completed at home as students do not have a lot of free time during the school day.

In order to monitor progress, we will schedule Check Points about every 6 weeks. These will consist of a student-led conference at home and a follow up with us at school.

Pet Parade will conclude with a Project Expo toward the end of the school year. The Expo will be an opportunity for each child to share his or her finished project with family, friends, and other guests. You will receive a more detailed invitation to the Project Expo later in the school year.
Time commitment:

- We will meet every Friday that school is in session from 8:00-8:55.
- We are estimating that our first session will be October 3.
- Our lesson will begin at 8:15. However, we will be here beginning at 8:00 to allow students to begin working and answer questions.
- Time outside of school to work on the project.
- Our Project Expo will take place for an hour after school in May or June.

Additional Project Expectations:

- Check the blog after each session, regardless of attendance.
- Be responsible to complete assignments in a timely manner and with integrity.
- Attend sessions on time.
- Work hard without disturbing others.
- Be responsible for following the Student Instruction Guide to keep up with assignments.
- Utilize resources such as Student Resource Cards and the blog.
- Facilitate student-led conferences.
- Schedule meetings with Mrs. Hertzfeldt and Mrs. Kania as needed.
- Come to school prepared with project materials, student-led conference forms, etc.

Blog:
http://westerlycreekgt.weebly.com/

Contact information:

Melissa (Cirkus) Kania
Melissa_Kania@dpsk12.org
720-424-3165

Meghan Hertzfeldt
Meghan_Hertzfeldt@dpsk12.org
720-424-3234
Envision 3rd Grade Sign-up

I, ____________________________, understand that the Envision Pet Parade Project is a special opportunity, and I am committed to meeting the expectations listed on the previous page. However, if I do not meet the expectations, I may be asked to no longer participate.

Student Name: ________________________________
Student Signature: _____________________________ Date: __________________

Parent Name: __________________________________
Parent Signature: ______________________________ Date: ______________________

Please send all updates and information to the following email addresses:
____________________________________________
____________________________________________
____________________________________________

*If you choose to sign up, please return this form to the main office, Mrs. Hertzfeldt, Mrs. Kania, or room 246 by September 17.