

Mr. Cawson's Fourth Grade Genius Hour

Genius hour is a movement that allows students to explore their own passions and encourages creativity in the classroom. It provides students a choice in what they learn during a set period of time during school. In our learning environment, the students are provided at least an hour a week to work on their passion projects (Mondays). Students are then challenged to explore something to do a project over that they want to learn about. They spend several weeks researching the topic before they start creating a product that will be shared with the class/school/world. Deadlines are limited and creativity is encouraged. Throughout the process I facilitate the student projects to ensure that they are on task. This year each marking period we will have one project. Thus, we will have four projects throughout the year.

Many teachers are raving about the autonomy that students are finding in their classes, including myself. A goal of every teacher should be to create lifelong learners. Genius hour projects are a huge step towards that goal.