

BEALS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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Christopher Crowley, Principal

Shirley C. Beal, Administrative Assistant

March 8, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

After April vacation, we are going to designate the first hour of every Friday for “Power Hour” for students in grades 3-8. This time-slot will be devoted to student curiosities, encouraging creativity and productiveness through intrinsic motivation.

Over the past few months we have been noticing how many students are asking questions related to subjects in which they are studying. Students have been encouraged to keep track of these interests, use their laptops to research, and come back and share with the class. Making these connections is what makes learning real for students. It also reinforces the fact that students are in charge of their own learning, and that learning isn’t necessarily driven by a textbook. Inquiry, discovery, and learning are things that they themselves control. We, as educators, may guide and encourage them, but learning is something that they should have ownership in.

All students have topics that they are very interested in, whether it be related to sports, history, science, math or another topic of interest. We want to give our students the opportunity to individually explore something of personal interest and devise a plan to share their findings with other students.

Some students may need only one week or possibly two to complete and then share. Others may need a longer time, and that’s just fine. The projects will be self-paced so that each student won’t feel pressured to get done at a certain time or frustrated that they have run out of time.

During these periods teachers will act as facilitators, helping individual students bring their projects to fruition.

Between now and April vacation, teachers will be discussing the idea with their students, preparing them for the first session on Friday, April 28th.

Sincerely,
Chris

Vision Statement

At Beals Elementary School, our goal is to create an environment that fosters a love of learning. Through collaboration, hard work, creativity, and fun, every student will achieve his or her full potential.