**RIS/EIS Independent Study – Student Proposal**

**DUE- Friday OCTOBER 30th, 2015**

- Our mission is to explore something we are passionate about and to take pride in our creations -

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Homeroom Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 The Independent Study program is a voluntary program for 8th grade students and an amazing creative outlet. The program was created for students who want to learn and explore topics not in the school curriculum. There is no discrimination against who is accepted, anyone with ideas is welcome, and no one is turned down because of their grades. Over the course of seven months, you will meet with dedicated high school mentors and work on projects that you will present to the school and families by the end of the year. The purpose of the program? It is whatever you make it. ***You* decide *your* purpose.** You design the goals you want to achieve and what your project will mean to you. Basically, your individual project should reflect yourself, your goals, and your purpose for participating!

Everyone is accepted to this program, regardless of your current grades in your classes.

**The Proposal:**Please answer the following questions either individually or together in a narrative.  We want to get an idea of what you’re interested in, why, and what it is you’d like to explore this year. Give us an idea of your **goals, expectations,** and the steps you’ll take to reach them.  Finally, give us an idea of who you are as a creative thinker and learner.  It would be helpful if you could type your response, but it is not required.  **Proposals are due to Mr. Robbins (RIS) or Mrs. Schumacher (EIS) on Friday, October 30th!**

**Questions:** Please be honest in your answers so we can pair you with a mentor who will be able to work well with you. Feel free to provide any additional information you feel is necessary:

1. What are you passionate about and what are your interests?

2. Why are you interested in Independent Study?

3. What do you want to do with your Independent Study this year?  Please let us know your general direction or a more specific plan if you have it already.

4. How do you go about completing a task or project? How do you prefer to manage your time?

5.Realistically, during the week, how many hours do you have free (Consider homework, jobs, sports, etc.)? Generally, which days of the week are you free?

**Timeline:** In addition to meeting with your mentor every week, you also will attend a number of group meetings throughout the year that will be announced in the future.

**Guidelines/expectations for participants:**

-Meet about once a week for 7 months with your mentor to work on your project

-Communicate with your mentor regularly.

-Present your work at the final presentation to your peers and family.

-Check the website (freetolearn.weebly.com) regularly for updates and upcoming events.

-**All meetings between participants and mentors must occur at Roosevelt, Edison, or the Westfield Public Library.**

**Tips:**

- Meet with your mentor about once a week.

- Attempt to attend the group meetings.

- Plan your time wisely; before you know it, you’ll be rushing to finish!

- Do what YOU want. Your mentor is there to guide you - not to tell you what to do.

- Contact us if you have any questions about the program - we’ll help you out!

**A message from the program coordinators:**

We are thrilled to have you along with us on the Independent Study journey this year. Please visit our website at freetolearn.weebly.com or contact us if you have any questions.

**High School Coordinators**: **westfieldindependentstudy@gmail.com**.

**RIS Coordinator:** Jeffery Robbins (teacher at RIS): jrobbins@westfieldnjk12.org

**EIS Coordinator:** Kim Schumacher (vice principal at EIS) kschumacher@westfieldnjk12.org