



## TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE!

October 2, 2009

The Enrichment Team is organizing a series of enrichment clusters that will meet for four Wednesday afternoon sessions this fall. The clusters will be held from **2:00-3:25 p.m.** on:

**November 4, November 18, December 2, and December 9**

Enrichment Clusters are workshops held during school for multi-aged groups of students who share a common interest with the person(s) presenting the cluster. Each K-4 Southeast student will attend the same cluster for all four weeks doing hands-on, advanced activities. Part of the first session on November 4th is designed to allow the participants to get to know each other and set goals for their cluster. This way we hope that students will have input in choosing activities to do in their cluster, which is one of the defining characteristics of enrichment clusters. For example, if you decide to present a cluster about healthy food, you might get a group of 10 students from 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade. You and the students might decide to create a cookbook and each child could create and make their own recipe. Students would also get a chance to choose what the layout of the book might be and how to market it. Alternatively, you might decide together to create a food tasting event or a video about making healthy choices.

We hope you or someone you know will be interested in presenting a cluster. Since both presenters and the students in each cluster enjoy learning about their topic, it is a fun way to spend an afternoon. Our goal is to have every parent or community presenter paired with a staff member who will assist in behavior management, session planning and supply of materials. If you're having trouble thinking of a topic, consider this list of topics brainstormed by Southeast students:

**rocks & minerals; sports incl. soccer, baseball, rock climbing, karate; music & musicians; medieval times; animals incl. insects, bats, horses, bees; cultures & countries & languages; letterboxing; healthy food & cooking; art incl. drawing, clay; dance; computers; math; origami; history; chemistry; plants & nature & gardening; mythology; plays & drama; knitting; movies; human body; adventure learning; science; space; writing; reading; ocean.**

There are some sample descriptions on the back of this page. Consider presenting to our younger students since we often have fewer choices for them. Whatever topic you choose, we hope you are able to emphasize advanced and authentic learning as well as fun in your cluster. Remember, you don't have to be an "expert" in whatever topic you choose. You and your students can learn more about the topic together! Presenters will also be invited to meet with enrichment team members to address questions and to assist with planning.

If you decide that you are interested and available to organize an enrichment cluster or help in any other way, please complete the form in this packet and return it by **Friday, October 16th**. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Irvine at Southeast [sue.irvine@mansfieldct.org](mailto:sue.irvine@mansfieldct.org) or 423-1611 ext. 122. We hope you'll take this exciting opportunity to share your time exploring with students at Southeast School. **Thank you.**

The Southeast School Enrichment Team

*PLEASE DON'T DISCARD THIS LETTER*

*If you can't participate at this time, please take some time to think of someone else who might be interested and available to help.*

*PASS IT ON!*



***Please return by Friday, October 16th.***  
**Enrichment Cluster Proposal Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Best Time to Call \_\_\_\_\_

I can't present a cluster but I can help by: \_\_\_ clerical \_\_\_ helping to place students in clusters  
\_\_\_ contacting presenters \_\_\_ assisting presenters \_\_\_ assistance in this topic \_\_\_\_\_

I am available to help:            11/4            11/18            12/2            12/9

Name or Topic of Proposed Cluster \_\_\_\_\_

To help student make their choices, please provide some subjects that might be covered or some ideas for products, performances, or services. This will be used to help students make selections.

Subjects: We might learn about:

\_\_\_\_\_

Products: We might do or create:

\_\_\_\_\_

Write a sentence or two about yourself so students can get to know you.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Preferred grade level of students for cluster (K-4, K-2, 2-4) \_\_\_\_\_

Minimum number of students needed for cluster (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Maximum number of students allowed in cluster \_\_\_\_\_

Materials needed for cluster \_\_\_\_\_

(Facilitators must make their own arrangements for most materials, reimbursement is available)

\_\_\_\_\_ I plan to use food items during my cluster (Mrs. Daniels will need to check for allergies)

Room Requested for cluster \_\_\_\_\_

***Questions/Concerns? Contact Susan Irvine--423-1611 or sue.irvine@mansfieldct.org***

*Office, please return to S. Irvine*

## **SAMPLE CLUSTERS**

These samples show just some of the many possible cluster ideas. You do not need to do one of these. Check the suggested topics in the letter or create your own!

### **American Sign Language**

How do people communicate without using a voice? In this cluster, American Sign Language will be introduced through both words and songs. Decide what to do with your new found language. Who might be your audience?

### **Young Author's Guild**

Are you an aspiring writer? Join other writers in creating original works in any genre you choose such as poetry, fiction, drama, and short story. Help identify outlets for your work. Submit for publication, enter contests, create a performance, develop a gathering of writers, and more.

### **Invention Convention**

Are you an inventive thinker? Would you like to be? Come to this cluster to brainstorm a problem, try to identify many solutions, and design an invention to solve the problem. Create your invention individually or with a partner.

### **Herpetologists' Society: Reptile Discovery**

Explore the mysteries, superstitions, myths, and real-life problems for reptiles today. Get up close and personal with reptile specimens. Discover what issues herpetologists study, identify how you can make a difference, then take action!

### **Children's Rights' Institute**

"That's not fair!" Have those words ever tumbled out of your mouth? Can you tell the difference between whining about something and identifying a real problem? What are the rights of people under 18 years old? Explore laws that define how you live and how they may be different from the laws that determine how other kids live. Develop a plan for action.

### **Survey Says...**

Do you want to find out what people think about things? Survey your friends, your family, or the community about something you've always wanted to know. Develop and conduct a survey and communicate your results.

### **Web Site Designers**

Explore the how, what, and why of web design. Sharpen your skills and determine a product or service and begin creating. Work alone or with a design team.

### **Spring Training**

Discover how to use your mind to become more skillful, fit, and knowledgeable about your physical abilities. Brainstorm and determine ways to have an impact on your fitness and others who may not have an interest in personal fitness.