

HOW PARENTS CAN ASSIST STUDENTS IN THE G/T INTERN/MENTOR PROGRAM

Discuss due dates and assignments for the course at the beginning of each quarter and remain informed about "big" assignment due dates which may tend to cluster near the end of each quarter. Students **always** have work to do: reading, taking notes, outlining, writing, interviewing, locating resources on the Internet, phoning experts, planning, organizing, or otherwise documenting their progress.

Ask to read students' journals and objectives once a month to see how things are going.

Recognize that independent projects usually require students to collaborate with adults and other teachers and students and that this feels unfamiliar, even anxiety producing. Help students brainstorm solutions to inevitable problems. Most projects worth doing run into snags along the way. This is part of what students are learning.

Provide an audience for students as they practice telephoning adult experts they don't know or presenting their current thinking and knowledge in *Power Point* presentations to increasingly more formal audiences. Critique them and tell them about your own work environment and the standards of performance there.

Keep your student's G/T Resource Teacher informed if you feel your child is falling behind, feeling overwhelmed, or experiencing any problems the teacher should know about in class or in internship placements. Email addresses and phone numbers are easily accessible on school and/or G/T Resource Teachers' websites.

Monitor your student's attendance at the internship site. Students are expected to spend a minimum of five hours a week at their internship site. Although some of this time may be spent working on their internship assignments away from their mentors, Intern/Mentor students must have regular, quality interactions with mentors. If a student goes for a week without seeing a mentor, the G/T Resource Teacher needs to know about it and know why. If a mentor is traveling or otherwise unavailable, then the student should meet with a colleague of the mentor, instead, or make up the missed mentor site time in a subsequent week.