

Peotone Community Unit District 207-U

Peotone Elementary School
426 North Conrad Street
Peotone, Illinois, 60468

Mr. Steve Stein, Superintendent

Peotone Elementary School

Phone 708.258.6955
Fax 708.258.0455

Mrs. Kathy Davis, Principal

Dear Peotone Elementary Families,

August 4, 2017

Are you ready to take the challenge? This is our third year for the *The Principal's Challenge*. *The Principal's Challenge* is an opportunity for students to participate in intensive and on-going learning activities about topics that pique their individual interests. Students decide to participate simply for the challenge and the joy of learning. This is a great opportunity for the whole family to learn together.

The Principal's Challenge becomes an extended learning opportunity for families to learn together and complete projects that are of special interest to students. Students should be creative and pick a subject about which they genuinely wish to learn. The types of learning activities in which you can participate are limited only by their imagination.

For *The Principal's Challenge*, the following guidelines apply:

-All activity paperwork and Learning Logs must be submitted in either a 3-ring binder or another method of binding. The binder should have the student's name, homeroom teacher's name, and project title. The attached title page should be completed and placed in the front of the binder.

-Projects will be evaluated based on the number of activities a student chooses to complete as well as the amount of effort put into the individual projects. There must be a variety of activities, and they must be **neatly** done. All papers must be **contained** in a binder.

-The **learning log** must be completed and neatly written or typed. Students may print or write in cursive if they wish.

The following list indicates the number of activities that will be recognized:

10-19 activities – Certificate

20-29 activities – Ribbon

30 or more activities – "I Took the Challenge" T-shirt

Completed challenges will be on display at our Celebrate Students Night in May

DUE DATE for the Principal's Challenge Projects: Friday, March 23rd, 2018

If you are interested in take the *The Principal's Challenge*, please complete the attached page and return it to school by September 1st. Once the challenge has been accepted, an information packet will be sent home. You may view the information packet now by visiting the PES website and selecting the link titled Principal's Challenge under Latest News. I look forward to reviewing the projects and expect to learn much in the process.

Sincerely,

Kathy Davis
Principal

(Over)

2017-2018 Principal's Challenge

Thank you for your interest in the 2017-2018 Principal's Challenge!

1. Participate in this family project by choosing any topic that is of special interest to you. Your challenge is to learn as much as possible about the topic and become an expert.
2. Plan activities on your topic. Activities are your choice, except that every student has to read one book on his/her topic. Remember this can be a family project. Parents can read the book with you. Once you have committed to the challenge, a packet of information will come home with ideas for additional activities.
3. Keep an **activity log** (found in the packet you will receive once you have committed to the challenge) of all activities that you complete.
4. Complete a **journal** by writing down some of the things you learned about your topic (adult help is permitted, especially for our younger students).
5. Turn in your completed binder by April 13, 2018.

Deadlines

In addition to the April 13th deadline, Mrs. Davis will meet with all participants during the year to discuss planning and progress toward completion of the challenge.

TAKE THE CHALLENGE!

Yes! I want to take the Principal's Challenge!

Student Signature

Date

Teacher

Parent Signature

Peotone Community Unit District 207-U

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Peotone, Illinois, 60468

Mr. Steve Stein, Superintendent

Peotone Elementary School

Phone 708.258.6955
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Mrs. Kathy Davis, Principal

Dear Peotone Elementary Families,

September 01, 2017

Congratulations on accepting the Principal's Challenge! I hope that you find this to be a fun family learning experience. I would like to remind you of the specifics of the Principal's Challenge.

The Principal's Challenge becomes an extended learning opportunity for families to learn together and complete projects that are of special interest to students. Students should be creative and pick a subject about which they genuinely wish to learn. The types of learning activities in which you can participate are limited only by their imagination.

For *The Principal's Challenge*, the following guidelines apply:

-All activity paperwork and Learning Logs must be submitted in either a 3-ring binder or another method of binding. The binder should have the student's name, homeroom teacher's name, and project title. The attached title page should be completed and placed in the front of the binder.

-Projects will be evaluated based on the number of activities a student chooses to complete as well as the amount of effort put into the individual projects. There must be a variety of activities, and they must be **neatly** done. All papers must be **contained** in a binder.

-The **learning log** must be completed and neatly written or typed. Students may print or write in cursive if they wish. This is a family project. Our youngest participants may need mom, dad, or siblings to help them complete the paperwork.

The following list indicates the number of activities that will be recognized:

10-19 activities – Certificate

20-29 activities – Ribbon

30 or more activities – "I Took the Challenge" T-shirt

Completed challenges will be on display at our Celebrate Students Night in May.

DUE DATE for the Principal's Challenge Projects: Friday, April 13, 2018

In this packet, you will find a few ideas of what topics can be used and activities that can be completed. Please do not think that this is all you can choose from. As said before, the list of topics and activities are only limited by the imagination. You will also find a FAQs page with answers to several frequently asked questions about the Principal's Challenge. Please feel free to contact me if you have more questions. All the paperwork you need for the Principal's Challenge is included in this packet. Feel free to make copies as needed or contact the school for more log sheets.

Good luck and enjoy the journey together!

Sincerely,

Kathy Davis
Principal

TAKE THE CHALLENGE!

Become an Expert

(These are simply examples and you are by no means limited to the topics listed here.)

airplanes
archeology
art
baseball
cactus
candy
clothing
continents
dance
diseases
electricity
Fire Department
government
houses
inventions
magnets
military
music
names
oceans
piano
planets
rocks and minerals
space
stamps
transportation

alternative energy
architecture
athletes
basketball
cameras
cards
cities
countries
deserts
earth
explorers
flowers
hobbies
human body
law
maps
mountains
musicians
National Parks
paper making
Police Department
plants
schools
sports
theatre
trees

animals
Arizona
artists
birds
camping
careers
circus
cowboys
desserts
earthquakes
FBI
food
holidays
insects
machines
medicine
motorcycles
mysteries
Native Americans
photography
pollution
presidents
scientists
states
tornadoes
volcanoes

Some activities to consider include:

- *****reading a book – only activity that must be included*****
- online research (this should include a student written summary of research material, not simply downloaded material)
- visiting a researched place
- creating a project
- writing a report, song, or poem
- taking photographs
- teaching the information to someone else
- collecting information
- collecting related items
- playing/creating a game
- watching a movie, play, performance, or program
- conducting an interview
- volunteering in a related activity
- drawing pictures or making a model (take a picture for your binder)
- developing a collage
- writing a letter
- use your imagination this is just a sample list!

What may an activity be? Here are some examples.....

If you are planning on visiting a place that pertains to your study, some examples of activities that you might complete may be:

1. Calling to arrange a tour
2. Conducting an interview
3. Taking the tour
4. Reading an article about the place you are visiting
5. Writing a 1 paragraph summary about your visit
6. Sending a thank you note for the visit

If you were to complete each of these, you would have completed 6 activities. Again, the goal is to learn and enjoy learning. The activities may involve anything you did to learn.

Be creative. You may complete any number of activities you wish. For each activity you must complete an entry on the “I Took the Challenge” learning log.

Just the FAQs!

Principal's Challenge is a great building block in learning to organize and present the results of a student's hard work. Any topic, no matter what it might be, can be presented in an organized and interesting fashion. Included below are the requirements necessary to organize your project, along with several ideas on how to present your other activities.

What happens after I turn in my project?

The Principal reads through every challenge and takes into account the requirements and then may make her own comments. Your project will be on display at the Celebrate Student's Night on May 2nd and then will be returned to you at the end of the year. Congratulations! You accepted a challenge and saw it all the way through!

Can I do it on any subject, or must it be from the list included with the challenge?

You may do it on any topic you wish. Those listed are suggested topics only. Many are topics that you cover in school in specific grades, and are only suggestions. If you are taking a trip, or wanting to learn about something not on the list – do it! And have a great time doing it!

Do I have to do it all by myself, or can my family participate?

We want you to come up with a topic that you want to know more about. We also want you to have fun! And that means your parents, grandparents, friends, and others may participate as well. For example, maybe you visit a museum or something related when you visit your grandparents. Collect some information, take a picture with them, and write a report or story on what you did and what you learned. Maybe your parents spot a news article in the paper and save it for you. You can **mount** it, **highlight** it and **summarize** what the article says and how it helps you with your subject. This counts as **3** activities.

If we do something in school on my topic, can I include it in my challenge?

You may include it for the sake of keeping interesting information about your subject, but we do not include it in the activity count or part of your project so there is no need to include it on your learning log.

Do I have to start at the beginning of the school year, or can I start any time?

You may start at any time. We give you this information at the start of school so you have time to do some really neat activities. But if you decide in the middle of the school year to participate, that's great too! In fact, if you decide to do it a month before it's due, you can do that as well. However, we do recommend that you treat this as an adventure and take the time to be creative and do many different activities to learn about your topic. If you start late, you still have to complete a minimum of 10 activities to complete the challenge.

Do I have to hand write my project, or can my parents help me write it? Can I type it?

We encourage all students to complete your own work. However, for Kindergarten through 2nd grade, your parents may help you with the title page, learning logs and labeling. For grade 3, students must complete the project with minimal help from parents, either by handwriting, typing or a combination of both. Remember: although you may have done family activities regarding your subject, it is YOUR project. So you need to let us know what you did and what you learned.

Can I use the internet?

Yes, we encourage the use of the internet with parental supervision. There are many wonderful sites to help you learn about your topic. However, printing off the information is not the same as reading it, highlighting key points, summarizing, and writing in your own words what you liked about the site and how it helped you learn more about your topic. If you want to print off something that is relevant to your project, that's fine, but it's not necessary to print off 20 pages and do nothing with them.

What if I find 20 news articles that I want to include? Is that 20 activities?

If they pertain to your topic and help you learn something, then include them. For each article to be included as a separate activity, you must complete one learning log per article. But remember, you must show that you have completed a variety of activities related to the articles.

What are the awards?

We have a variety of awards that correspond to the number of activities you have completed. One of the greatest rewards is the satisfaction of a job well done. The principal loves to share in your hard work and celebrate with you.

Most of all..... Enjoy the process of learning!

Use your imagination! What made your project interesting for you? We will be impressed at what you have done and how much you have learned! Did you make it clear as to what you did and what you learned? Will the reader learn something from your hard work and organized presentation?

Your entries do not have to be long, but they should show some effort and include appropriate detail. You are simply asked to show that you have learned something and that you have enjoyed your learning.

Peotone Elementary School
Principal's Challenge
2017-2018

Title Page

(Include this page in the front of your Principal's Challenge binder)

Name _____

Homeroom Teacher _____ Grade Level _____

Title of your Principal's Challenge _____

Number of Activities you have completed _____

Have you completed the Student Journal? _____

Have you completed a Learning Log for every activity? _____

Are you proud of your project? _____

Did your family learn too? _____

Do you feel you did your very best? _____

What would you like me to know about your project?

Please keep your learning logs in the front of your binder. Do not cut this page apart.

I TOOK THE CHALLENGE

Student Journal

(Include this page in the front of your Principal's Challenge binder)

Younger children may dictate this section to someone else who will do the writing.

I. Topic Preview

Complete this section **before** you begin your project.

What is your topic? _____

What do you already know? List up to ten facts or pieces of information that you already know about your topic.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

Critical Questions List at least two questions that you have about your topic that you would like to answer during your challenge.

- 1. _____

- 2. _____

- 3. _____

- 4. _____

II. Becoming an Expert

List at least ten facts you learned about your topic.

- 1. _____

- 2. _____

- 3. _____

- 4. _____

- 5. _____

- 6. _____

- 7. _____

- 8. _____

- 9. _____

- 10. _____

Tell what your favorite activity was and explain why.

Key Vocabulary – list and define at least five key vocabulary words associated with your topic. These should be words that you learned during the course of your study.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

Tell what you plan to do in the future as an expert on your topic (possibly list other learning activities, how you will share your knowledge with other people, what things you might do as a result of your knowledge, a possible career, etc.).

As a result of doing this Principal’s Challenge and hearing about other students’ topics, what topic might you choose next year?

I TOOK THE CHALLENGE!
Learning Log Sheet

Name _____

Date _____ Activity # _____

For this activity I... (describe what you did):

What did you learn? (Be specific and provide details):

Date _____ Activity # _____

For this activity I... (describe what you did):

What did you learn? (Be specific and provide details):

Date _____ Activity # _____

I TOOK THE CHALLENGE!
Learning Log Sheet

Name _____

Date _____ Activity # _____

For this activity I... (describe what you did):

What did you learn? (Be specific and provide details):

Date _____ Activity # _____

For this activity I... (describe what you did):

What did you learn? (Be specific and provide details):
