



Greetings!

My name is John Rauh, a teacher in Rockford Public School's Renaissance Gifted program. The student who gave you this letter is enrolled in the Senior Capstone course. The purpose of the course, as briefly as I can state it, is that it affords our highly motivated, highly intelligent gifted seniors, many of whom will head around the world next year for elite educations, the opportunity to explore an academic area as deeply as possible with the resources available in our schools and community. Each student must design, research, execute, and then present a fully self-monitored, self-motivated, self-evaluated scholarly project—in short, each student is being given as much freedom as possible to use and enjoy the intelligence he/she has been blessed with.

Your role in this amazing project, if you'd like to participate, would be to mentor the student, as you are the expert in at least one of the fields the student is exploring. You'd be volunteering to answer questions about your field, to give guidance as to resources and research, and, generally, to support the student through the process. More specifically, the course requires that the student meet with his/her mentor once per academic quarter (time, length, and medium of communication to be determined by you) for the first three; for the fourth quarter, the student will invite you attend the final presentation near the end of the year, where you will be able see the fruits of your involvement! Of course you are welcome to become more involved, as these are only the minimums.

The typical mentor from last year frequently (perhaps 1-2 times a week) exchanged emails with the student and then either met in person or talked on the phone once per academic quarter. Mentors are not required to travel to the school or, necessarily, to serve as emotional support—your primary role would be to pass along your content area expertise.

I know this is a time-intensive request that the student has made, but I hope that the opportunity to work with a motivated, respectful, intelligent student is payment enough for the time that it would take. Perhaps you can inspire a budding scholar to pursue the same career that you have.

You'll likely have many more questions, and I would like to answer as many as you might have. Please contact me with any question or concern. I am happy to meet with you at your convenience or will always return your phone call or email (john.rauh@rps205.com; (815) 966-3300).

Thank you for considering the donation of your time, experience, and expertise!

John Rauh