



# Jefferson Township High School

## PROGRAM FOR THE GIFTED AND TALENTED INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_  
MENTOR: \_\_\_\_\_  
PROJECT TITLE (as it will appear on your transcript):  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Office Use Only*  
Entrance  
Interview  
Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Course to Run  
Period: \_\_\_\_\_

On a separate sheet, attached to this cover sheet, clearly state the following (please type):

1. Name of the Independent Study Project
2. Purpose and goals of the Independent Study Project
3. Description of the Independent Study Project and a summary of work to be completed (what you will actually do/make **outlined month by month-this should be a minimum of two pages long**)
4. Name of Teacher/Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_
5. **\*If you wish for your independent study to meet a graduation requirement such as “Visual and Performing Arts”, “Career, Consumer and Family Life” or “Financial and Economic Literacy” please specify AND explain how your independent study will fulfill that requirement.**

I agree to complete the project or activity described below and to consult with the gifted and talented teacher periodically on the progress of my project. Any violation of this agreement will result in the termination of the project with no credit awarded.

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**All signatures AND initials (see part 5 on page 2 of this application) and/or approvals must be obtained before being enrolled in the course:**

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent email: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Parent please note that by signing this, you are acknowledging that you have read and understand the nature of and terms of the independent study.**

Teacher/Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

Guidance Counselor: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor of Gifted and Talented Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Gifted and Talented Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Guidance: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Subject Area Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_**  
(\*\*Only needed if the program meets a specific graduation requirement)

### **Deadlines:**

**For Semester 1 (September-February): All applications must be submitted by June 1<sup>st</sup>.**  
**For Semester 2 (February-June): All applications must be submitted by December 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**PROGRAM FOR THE GIFTED AND TALENTED  
INDEPENDENT STUDY FOR CREDIT  
JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL**

**Independent study for credit means any significant learning activity, experience, and/or project that includes/follows the criteria and guidelines set forth below.**

1. The program reflects self-directed learning, and the student should reflect the qualities of self-motivation, dependability, perseverance, honesty, integrity, willingness to put forth effort, ability to accept criticism and direction, and a high degree of responsibility.
2. An independent study plan and contract will be developed by the student and parent/guardian, recommended by the teacher/mentor, guidance counselor, and approved by the following (after the entrance interview): supervisor of the gifted and talented program, gifted and talented teacher, and Director of guidance and any necessary subject area supervisors.
3. The student must complete the independent study proposal form, which can be obtained online or from the guidance department, obtain the appropriate signatures, and have an entrance interview before any further action can be taken in terms of approval/scheduling of the planned program.
4. The proposal, and ultimately the program, reflects the study of material that is accelerated and expanded in relation to the regular school curriculum. The program involves varied sources of information and guidance within and/or outside of school.
5. Progress must be made throughout the semester/school year on the independent study project-this is documented by scheduled meetings with the gifted and talented teacher and through email.
  - a. **Meetings will take place at least one time per marking period, be scheduled by the gifted and talented teacher, and may result in the student missing class time. The students must make up any work missed.**
  - b. **Additionally, the student must correspond with the teacher via school email, each week, on Friday, with an update of progress. In the Friday update students must include documentation of work produced. They can be attached to the email or embedded directly in the email. They may also be shared via Google Drive. Examples include, but are not limited to the following:**
    - i. **Photographs of work produced**
    - ii. **Recordings of music learned**
    - iii. **Sample papers written**
    - iv. **Sample slide shows created**
    - v. **Video of performances**
    - vi. **Drawings/sketches of work**
  - c. **Failure to produce work of good quality or communicate with the gifted and talented teacher on a weekly basis will result with an “F” for the marking period and potential dismissal from the program.**
  - d. **Parents will receive email notification that their child is in danger of failing.**

Parent Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Student Initials \_\_\_\_\_

6. The program results in an “end product” of sufficient length and substance related to the independent study project (journal, presentation, portfolio, performance, showcase, etc.) that will be evaluated by the gifted and talented supervisor and gifted and talented teacher.
7. It is expected that the student attend all regularly scheduled classes unless prior approval is obtained from the gifted and talented teacher and after consultation with the class instructor to be excused from said classes periodically. The student is responsible for any class work missed during the completion of the independent work if it is deemed necessary for him/her to miss a scheduled class.
8. Students may elect to take a full year (5 credits) or half year (2.5 credits) independent study. The program involves a minimum of 1600 minutes per credit in terms of effort no matter the choice.
9. Generally, a student will be permitted to propose and complete a maximum of one independent study project per semester. Students may submit another proposal for independent study only after the previous project is completed in a satisfactory manner.
10. A student must report to his/her teacher/mentor or designated area (i.e. media center, etc.) during his/her Independent Study period on his/her schedule.
11. It is suggested that a student attempt to earn no more than 5 credits per academic year for each of the four years in high school. However, special consideration can be given to extremely motivated students who present valid, challenging project proposals to the evaluatee(s). The evaluatee(s) could recommend the earning of additional credits for such accelerated and expanded independent study proposals or activities.
12. Any student, who, in the judgment of the gifted and talented teacher and/or teacher/mentor, is not performing satisfactorily, will have his/her project reviewed by the evaluatee(s) and may be removed from the program. If this is done, no credit will be given for the project. A notation of “Independent Study- Withdrawn -No Credit” will be made in the student’s record.
13. Students will not receive a specific grade other than “pass or fail” and credits earned will not affect GPA or class rank.
14. Coursework will be noted on school records as “Independent Study ---project topic ---number of credits awarded---and assessment” (pass/fail).
15. **\*\*Typically, independent study credits do not satisfy graduation requirements. Any student who wishes to use independent study credits to satisfy a graduation requirement such as “Visual and Performing Arts”, “Career, Consumer and Family Life” or “Financial and Economic Literacy” must make that distinction in the appropriate spot on the independent study application AND have his/her program approved by a committee comprised of the Supervisor of Gifted and Talented, the Principal, the Director of Guidance and the supervisor of the subject area in which the student would like to obtain credit.\*\***

**Deadlines:**

**For Semester 1 (September-February): All applications must be submitted by June 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**For Semester 2 (February-June): All applications must be submitted by December 1<sup>st</sup>.**