

## Advanced Learning Plan - Goals and Opportunities Eighth Grade 2023-2024

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Gifted and Talented (GT) students at Boltz Middle School work with GT staff, teachers, and parents to choose goals for their annual Advanced Learning Plan (ALP). ALP goals are a directed way to guide our GT students to follow a passion, make a difference, and/or work towards a personal goal throughout the year.

An ALP is an opportunity driven experience. Therefore, students will get out of their ALP what they put into it. So, we ask that students choose their ALP goal with thought and care. We want them to pick something that they are passionate about. The ALP isn't about extra work, it is about taking advantage of provided opportunities for further growth here at Boltz. To encourage students to explore different options during their time here at Boltz, students may not repeat goals from year to year.

According to the CDE, a GT student must choose an Achievement ALP and an Affective ALP goal each year. Students will check in with Sierra Londenberg and Morgan Griffith on their goals. All goals will require a Final Learning Product submitted to Ms. Londenberg and Mrs. Griffith on Friday, April 26, 2024. Students will present their Final Learning Products after school on Thursday, May 2, 2024. Look through the choices with your student and choose their goals for the year. It is important that students and parents work together in choosing a goal, however, please allow your students to choose their own path. Email us if you have any questions.

Sierra Londenberg and Morgan Griffith

Boltz GT Site Coordinators

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### Achievement Goals (Choose 1)

- Advanced Math** - This goal is for students who want to continue to push themselves in their advanced math class. Students can choose to focus and connect their classwork to the Standards for Mathematical Practice, or focus on their study/organizational skills in class.
  
- Get Involved in a Boltz Activity** - In order to grow collaboration skills, students will get involved in at least one activity this school year. Students will work hard to reach outside their comfort zone, get to know new people, and gain new skills. If students are interested in joining an activity outside of Boltz, they must get it approved by Ms. Londenberg or Mrs. Griffith when setting their goal.
  - Activities include sports (tennis, soccer, track, etc.), clubs (Chess Club, Lego Robotics, ASL Club, Spectrum Club), other activities (Musical Theater, Science Olympiad, Odyssey of the Mind), etc.
  
- Enter a Writing Contest** - This goal is for students who love creative writing and want to grow their writing skills. Students will independently write ONE original piece in any genre (ex: a poem, short story, narrative, etc.). Students will submit proof that they entered the contest (ex: a screenshot of my online application to the contest, a hard copy of the application, etc.) and submit their creative writing piece to Ms. Londenberg and Mrs. Griffith.
  
- 40 Book Challenge** - This goal is for students who love to read. Students with this goal will participate in the 40 Book Challenge with the full intent of completing ALL 40 books by the end of April. Students will need to track their books either using the provided Book Log or using their own method. This Book Log needs to be incorporated into their Final Learning Product.
  
- Learning a New Language** - This goal is for students enrolled in Spanish this school year or for those wishing to learn a new language using a language learning app, i.e. DuoLingo. This goal is designed for those who show an interest and strength in learning a new language.
  
- Geek Squad** - This goal is for students who are innovative, inventive, and love working with technology. Students will use technology as a platform to create something (ex: video game, short film, short documentary, compose and record my own music, write and record a TED Talk, etc.). Students should understand that this goal will be done mainly on their own time with Check Ins with a teacher. They might need help from a parent or tech teacher to reach this goal, and will need to advocate for themselves when they need this support.
  - Type of Final Learning Product: \_\_\_\_\_

- Improve Organization/Time Management** - This goal is for students who need to get more organized and work on time management skills. Students will check in and be provided with strategies to improve upon their skills to help them be more successful in their classes.
  
- Independent Inquiry Project** - This goal is for students who are curious about a topic and want to investigate it. Students will choose an independent research topic to learn about and find a relevant method to present their findings with. It will be beneficial for students to discuss their topics of choice with their adults at home. Students need to understand that this goal is done mainly on their own time and will need to advocate for themselves when they need help.
  - Research Topic: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Social Action and Service** - This goal is for students who want to look beyond middle school and out into the world. Students will spend the year on a Social Action of their choosing. Students will find a volunteer opportunity in the community (could be through church, family activities, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, NJHS, etc.) to work to make a difference. This might be a big one-time opportunity or a repeated chance to volunteer for a few months. Students are expected to keep a log of their Service Hours including the date of the Service Project, how many hours were spent participating, and a description of the project. This log will be incorporated into their Final Learning Product.
  
- Career Exploration/Interview (Any GT ID)** - This goal is for students who want to explore a specific career field. Students will pick a career field to explore and interview an adult mentor in that field. The GT Coordinator, Ms. Londenberg, will find a mentor during the first semester while students work on researching the field and writing strong interview questions that must be submitted and approved. In January, students will reach out to their mentor to set up the interview. Interviews will take place in person or on Microsoft Teams.
  - To complete this ALP, students will produce a Final Learning Product to show what they have learned through this process. The Final Product should include details about the chosen field, the interview, and what the student learned. Students will present their Final Product at GT Night in May.
  
- College Visit OR Online College Research** - This goal is designed for students who want to learn more about post-secondary options (community college, 4-year universities, trade schools, etc). Students can complete a visitation (with parents or on the college field trip) during the school year or may research different colleges/universities online. Students will learn about campus resources, activities, major options, housing options, etc.

### **Affective Goals (Choose 1)**

Affective goals have no Final Learning Product for GT Night. Students will choose a growth area to focus on and check in with either Ms. Londenberg or Mrs. Griffith during the school year. Affective goals are designed to have students practice setting personal growth goals and see it as a lifelong process.

- Resilience and Grit** - This goal has students focus on working their hardest to build resilience and grit to help them grow academically and keep their mental health strong. Students will work to use the four-phase process of resilience (Try, Learn, Adapt, Recover) when working through challenges in schoolwork, learning platforms, and more.
- Self-Advocacy** - This goal has students focus on developing self-advocacy skills and reaching out to teachers and staff as they need assistance. Becoming a strong self-advocate will help students grow academically and keep their mental health strong.
- Stress Management and Healthy Habits** - This goal has students focus on using exercise and other healthy personal choices (ex: unplugging more often from social media, getting more sleep, etc.) to help manage stress, to grow academically, and keep their mental health strong.
- Interpersonal Skills** - This goal has students focus on interpersonal skills with peers and adults through consistent communication and collaboration to help them be able to grow academically and keep their mental health strong.
- Productivity and Accountability** - This goal has students focus on increasing productivity and accountability in regard to their learning. Focusing on productivity levels and personal accountability will help them be able to grow academically and keep their mental health strong.

**\*\*NOTE:** Know that these are NOT unchangeable goal choice lists. If you have an idea for a goal that is not listed above, please set up a time to meet with Ms. Londenberg to discuss it.

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

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_