

How can I support my child during the Personal Project?



- *Visit the Royal Oak MYP and Personal Project websites.*

There is a wealth of information on both of these websites to help you understand the process of the project and how it connects to all the concepts, skills, and attitudes that students have developed over the course of the five years they have been in the Middle Years Programme. On the Royal Oak MYP website (www.romyp.weebly.com), you will find information about Global Contexts, Approaches to Learning, and the Personal Project. Additionally, on the Royal Oak High School Personal Project website (https://sites.google.com/oaklandschools.net/rohs_personal_project/home), you can find a timeline, projects handbook, projects workbook, rubrics, and student samples, giving you access to all the information and resources students have at their fingertips.

- *Have your student share his or her Google Calendar with you.*

Each student is enrolled in a Google Classroom for the Personal Project. Assignments are pushed directly into their school account Google Drive and due dates are synced with their Google Calendar. Having your child share his or her school account Google Calendar with you will enable you to see when each step of the project is scheduled. These dates are guidelines to help students manage their time. If students fall behind, they can still turn in their work at a later date, or if students wish to work ahead, using the workbook as a guide, they may. The schedule anticipates students doing on average 20-45 min of work per week, helping students manage their time so they can balance it with their other activities.

- *Focus on the learning and outcome.*

The goal of the Personal Project is on learning to be an independent thinker and apply the skills and concepts students have learned to a real-world issue or situation that interests them. One of the things students get nervous about is if their final product is perfect. Remind them that the Personal Project is more about the process and what students learn than the final perfect result. If their product does not turn out 100% perfect, but they have learned a great deal through reflecting on the process, they have been extremely successful.

- *Embrace your inner cheerleader.*

At times, things can be a tad frustrating for students working on their product or outcome. They have to be problem solvers to figure out how to complete the goal and success criteria they established for themselves. While students' project supervisors (seminar teacher) and support staff (administration, MYP and Project coordinators, Learning Commons instructional leader, etc) will all be there to help them brainstorm and cheer them on, having an ear at home to listen to them and remind them they are capable of doing this project is even better.

- *Be a mentor.*

If you have expertise in a particular area or know someone who does, consider acting as a mentor to students, or asking someone else to. Part of students' project is to work on their collaboration and communication skills, and working with mentors helps students develop these skills in an authentic way. If you have a particular hobby, career experience, or skills that you would be willing to share with students (whether your own or others), contact the MYP coordinator, Ms. Belzyt (belzytl@royaloakschools.org), or the Projects coordinator, Mr. McMann (mcmannr@royaloakschools.org) to partner you with a student who could use your help.