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ISM 3A

January 27, 2017

Hopelessly Devoted to ISM

Weekly Report 1/23 - 1/29

With the completion of both the Research Showcase and our Original Works, students in the Independent Study and Mentorship program at Reedy were finally able to relax again and focus on other aspects of their lives, both in and out of school...or so we thought. Although our largest events and assignments thus far have come and gone, students are now beginning to feel the pressure of the ‘next big thing.’ The Product. **Audience gasps in mock horror.** The stages of the final product seem simple enough. We are required to come up with our own ideas that can either stem from our original work ideas, or are a completely new idea. With this, we must create a new proposal and calendar in order to stay on track, both of which are to be shared with our mentors, so that we may collaborate and receive feedback. For my product idea, I plan to build off of my original work guidelines and put together a binder, which will include my original work Shame and Worthiness Guidelines, as well as a theory based on the development of elementary-aged students, which I plan to create based on my observations from each mentor visit. Along with these two pieces, I will also incorporate worksheets and other components. These will highlight and examine the effects or situations of both shame and worthiness in a classroom.

As I continue to reflect on the past semester of ISM, I often find myself coming back to one specific question that I have been frequently asked by students who are not in the program: If there is so much work involved that takes time outside of school, why am I in the program? Why am I focusing a large amount of my time on school work when I could be spending time elsewhere? Previously, I had struggled slightly to find an answer. Now, however, I have determined my response. The ISM program is difficult to understand to students who are not members of the class. It is a program that requires your full effort and attention. It may be overwhelming at times, and it may keep you up late into the night if you procrastinate. It is a program that will only reward you for the work that you put into it. That being said, ISM is a program like no other. It will give you opportunities that no other high school student will get to experience. It provides students with an understanding of what it means to be a professional, both in the career path that they follow, as well as in the world in general. It allows students to follow a path that they create for themselves, and to utilize their own creativity in order to shape the way that they learn, work, and create. Independent Study and Mentorship does take time out of a day that could be spent focusing on other activities, but, from my experience, there are very few things that will be quite as rewarding as being able to see the amount of personal growth and learning that has occurred as an outcome of participation in this program.