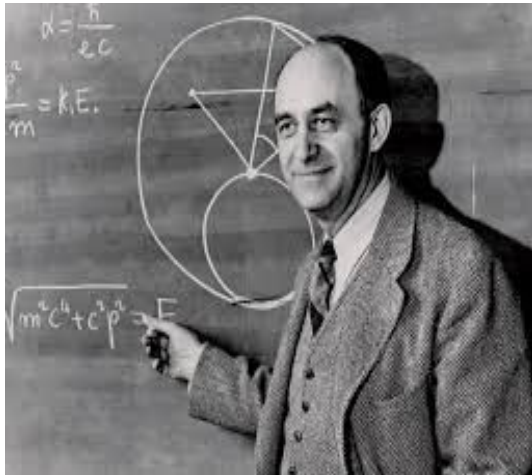


Glen Ridge Middle School

G & T NEWSLETTER

March 2018



Fermi Questions

Enrico Fermi was a Nobel Prize winning physicist known for his ability to rapidly estimate calculations. Named for him, "Fermi question" involve making rough, educated estimates at each step and coming up with an overall reasonable estimate to the problem. These questions have no single right "answer" but if using sound reasoning and computing correctly, answers should be in the "ballpark."

G&T students have been practicing their estimating skills by answering questions such as:

How many pet cats are there in the U.S.?

Using a combination of math skills and critical thinking, they arrive at estimates to such questions, comparing numbers and explaining their methodology. After sharing and discussing a number of assigned questions, students were tasked with developing "Fermi Questions" of their own. Here are some of the questions they developed and analyzed with their peers:

How much does your hair grown in a minute?

How many pieces of junk mail does the average person receive in a year?

How many hours per year do 8th graders in Glen Ridge spend using electronics?

How would you go about arriving at estimates for these questions?

Junior Model United Nations

Model U.N. is an extracurricular activity offered at the High School level where participants role play delegates to the United Nations and simulate various committees. Our HS Model U.N. team meets regularly and puts in many hours of research and preparation. They have attended conferences at locations including Rutgers, Berkley and Prague. At these conferences, students represent member nations speaking before the council and negotiating responses to global issues with those representing other nations.



For the remainder of this school year, our Middle School G&T students will be participating in our own junior version of Model U.N. Students will research assigned countries, prepare position papers reflecting their country's views on some relevant issues, present speeches before other delegates, debate their positions and together come up with innovative yet realistic resolution proposals.



Field Trip to U.N.

On May 15th our 7th and 8th grader G&T students will be visiting the United Nations for a private guided tour. Be on the lookout for permission slips with further information coming home soon.

