

# Science Fair Project

## Parent Guide

Dear Eighth Grade Parents and Guardians,

Your student is about to start his Science Fair Project. He will get the details of the project in class on September 19th. This handout is meant to serve as a guide for you to understand how he may need you over the course of the project and where he should be at any given point in time. This is his project, and he can handle it. Think of the following dates and suggestions as opportunities for you as a parent to check in on his progress and stay involved without him handing over the reins.

- **September 19th:** Students will receive a copy of the *Research Plan Form* in class and are told the requirements of the project. We will discuss ideas and answer any questions they might have in class. The first copy of the research plan, the formal lab report requirements, and the grading rubric will all be included in their notebook.
  - At some point before the next date he should probably mention what he might like to do for his science fair project to you. If he can't talk about a plan, then he may need to see me or come up with a new idea.
  
- **October 3rd:** The first draft of their *Research Plan* is due in their notebook. At this time they'll be told to fix, correct, change or move forward with their project. Round 1 of the *Research Plan* is a minor grade, but an important first step in the process.
  - After this date you may want to ask how his plan was received by me and any changes that he had to make.
  
- **October 4<sup>th</sup> through December 5<sup>th</sup> :** Data collection and experiments could and should happen anywhere in this time frame based on the required length of time needed for the student to complete his study.

- **October 21st:** Final Draft of *Research Plan* Due. This is a graded assignment outside of their notebook.
  - After this point everyone should be working on gathering their materials and collecting data if that has not already happened.
  - This does not need to be a costly project, so if the school has materials that they may need, please let me know.
  
- **December 5<sup>th</sup> :** The Science Fair Project report is due. This is the formal write up. The structure and rubric are included in their notebook.
  - Students are encouraged to turn in a rough draft on or before November 21st. Any rough drafts will be checked and can be edited before being graded.
  
- **December 15<sup>th</sup> :** Students will present their projects to the school and to the faculty. Teachers will judge the projects, and the top three finishers will be awarded extra credit points on their written reports.
  - This is the day that the students will present the information they gathered. They'll have 3-4 minutes to explain and present their information. Visual aids are highly recommended.

Thank you in advance for your support on this project. It is ultimately his project, but you may be asked by your student to supply space, some time, and/or materials. If you have any questions, ask your student first. If they don't know the answer, have them ask me via e-mail or in person. I know they can do amazing work!