

September 16, 2011

Dear Parents:

All students in grades 6-8 are expected to complete a project that includes a research paper and visual display. In order to learn the skills of researching, outlining, and the assimilation of notes drawn from various sources, students have a choice of completing a SCIENCE, SOCIAL STUDIES, or FINE ARTS project. Teachers will spend extra time with the students guiding and assisting them with their research paper. We ask parents to assist by helping their son/daughter locate sources of information on their topic and by giving them reminders to meet deadlines.

6th grade students must choose between Social Studies and Fine Arts projects. The extra requirements for science projects are quite complicated; therefore, 7th and 8th graders only will be allowed to participate in the Science Fair under the guidance of Mrs. Lizette Woodward.

The completed projects will be judged at St. Joseph School. Winners from the Science division may go on to compete in the Regional Fair.

The following time schedule will be followed:

Area Choice due September 23 (Friday)

Title and Purpose due October 3 (Monday)

Research Cards due November 7 (Monday)

Research Paper—including a complete bibliography due December 5 (Monday)

Oral presentations with backboard due January 9th-13th

Completed Project—including the paper, bibliography, and backboard—due

January 19 (Thursday); all projects will be judged on Thursday (Awards

announced that evening at the Home & School Meeting.)

If we can be of assistance, please contact one of us.

Mrs. Pam Baltar, Mrs. Judy Toth, Mr. Bryan Monroe, Mrs. Lizette Woodward, Miss Laraine Pollard, Mrs. Jennifer Terrill, and Mrs. Beth Sweat

See attached description of each area of study and the established requirements. These requirements must be met for each project.

(detach and return)

Student Name _____ Grade _____

Area Choice (check one)

_____ Fine Arts

_____ Social Studies

_____ Science (Note: EXPERIMENT REQUIRED; 7th and 8th graders only)

Parent Signature _____

THIS FORM IS DUE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

FINE ARTS FAIR

Categories will include the following:

1. An Art **Medium** OR an Art **Form**—Students select a medium (watercolor, oil, tempera, etc.) or an art form (painting, printmaking, photography, ceramics, sculpture, etc.) and research its history, what it is made from, advantages/disadvantages, the process of creating a work of art, and how it is used. Research should also include one or two artists who worked with that medium and compare/contrast how they used it and give examples of their work.
2. Subject Matter—Students choose a subject found in artwork, such as religion, and show how two artists have treated the same subject successfully by comparing/contrasting the style, historical era, and analyzing the elements of design of each artist.
3. Style—Students pick a style in the history of art, such as impressionism, and explain the style, its history, factors influencing its arrival, and the style's impact on artists. Students then choose the work of one or two artists who represent this style and discuss how their works adequately portray this style.
4. Artists—Students may choose one artist and discuss his/her use of the five basic elements of design. Be prepared to give some background information about the factors that influenced the artist and support all ideas using examples of the artist's work. Also, identify the style represented by the artist. **THIS PROJECT IS NOT A BIOGRAPHY.**

Research: Must be done on specific topic. The project must include visual aids. These may be in the form of graphs, maps, models, and audio-visual materials, etc. There must be a description of the construction techniques and materials used.

The research paper's length and required number of sources will be assigned according to grade level of student. A formal bibliography is required.

Backboard: mandatory

SOCIAL STUDIES FAIR

Research **MUST** be related to the theme designated by the National History Association for 2011-12: "Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History." The topics chosen by students must be **related to the theme**, keeping in mind both "Revolution, Reaction, and Reform" and "In History" (not a current topic or recent event). Information about this year's theme can be found at the National History Day website: www.nhd.org. The project must include visual aids. These may be in the forms of graphs, maps, models, and audio-visual materials, etc.

The paper's length and required number of sources will be assigned according to the grade level of the student. A formal bibliography will be required.

Backboard: mandatory backboard

SCIENCE FAIR

Science requires a research paper as well as an experiment that corresponds with a category listed below. The requirements for the paper will be assigned according to the grade level of the students. A formal bibliography is required. The experiment must support an aspect of the research paper. The usual format will be followed for the experiment with the addition of an abstract.

A backboard is mandatory and will display the experiment, results, and the abstract.

All science projects **MUST** have the prior approval form returned to the teacher before beginning the experimentation.

Categories will include the following experiments:

- Behavior and Social Science
- Biochemistry
- Botany
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Earth and Space Science
- Engineering
- Environmental Science
- Gerontology
- Mathematics
- Medicine and Health
- Microbiology
- Physics
- Zoology (invertebrates)

****Projects involving human subjects, vertebrate animals, rDNA, pathogenic or potentially pathogenic agents, controlled substances, and human or animal tissue are NOT allowed.**

Backboards: mandatory backboard