

Science Fair 2012 Schedule St. Simon Parish School

Dear 8th Grade:

It's that time of the year again when the Science Fair process begins! The **2012 Science Fair** will be held on **Wednesday, February 29th**. The Science Fair allows students to experience the entire scientific process from beginning to end. It can be very rewarding for the student to design, carry out an experiment, and achieve some exciting (and sometimes unexpected) results! In keeping with our goal of emphasizing the process, rather than the outcome, each phase of the project will be checked and assessed according to the scheduled due dates (please see below). At the Science Fair, judges will evaluate the projects, provide useful feedback, and select projects that best exemplify the scientific inquiry process in a variety of science categories.

It is vital to the process that they choose a subject that is developmentally appropriate for their grade-level and one that they are truly curious about in order to make the research and work purposeful rather than obligatory. Your support is key to a successful project, but please do not allow your involvement to extend any further than providing moral support, progress monitoring, and some trouble-shooting advice. Please ensure that your child takes the challenge on his or her own, and that all work is authentic and void of any plagiarism. Ask Mrs. DeCarlo if clarification is needed. Please note the following key dates and keep this copy for your records. All Science Fair forms are available for download on the Middle School Science Website:

November 2nd (Wednesday): *Idea Submission Form* due in person or via email at sdecarlo@stsimon.org **BEFORE** that date.

- ***Mrs. DeCarlo must approve the idea before your child may begin the project.***
- Each project idea must be unique from one another. Reserving your idea for the experiment will be taken on a "first come, first served" basis.
- Some types of experiments are not permitted for this science fair. These are: any experiments conducted by the High Schools (pasta bridge, egg drop, etc.), certain heart rate experiments (music, movies, video games, caffeine), sociology experiments (opinion-oriented), and any experiment that's geared towards a demonstration and not an actual test. Please refer to the ***Off Limits Science Fair Ideas List***, and consult with Mrs. DeCarlo if you need guidance.

November 9th (Wednesday): *Final Idea Submission and Commitment Form* due (**Parent signature is required**). Once it is turned in, you may not change your project idea.

November 16th (Wednesday): *Background Research Worksheet* due:
• ***Experimental Design*** passed out. You may begin filling this out.

November 21st/22nd: *Background Research Worksheet* returned:
• Look over any comments made on your ***Background Research Worksheet***. You may have to research further, include some missing data, or make some necessary adjustments to the information you wrote.

November 30th (Wednesday): *Experimental Design Form* due and *begin the Final Background Research Form***:**

- Your child may turn this in sooner as long as their idea has been approved and this form is completed.
- Mrs. DeCarlo will review their design for safety and practicality of the experiment, and will offer any suggestions for improvement at this time for your child to review and modify any changes necessary.
- Once the experimental design has been approved and returned to your child, he or she may begin the experiment.

December 7th: *Experimental Design Form* Returned:

- You should begin your experiment once you receive your design back from Mrs. DeCarlo.
- If you are growing plants, you should begin **ASAP**, otherwise, give yourself an ample amount of time to get enough data collected for your particular experiment (i.e., in case the plants die and you need to restart).

December 12th/13th (Monday/Tuesday): *Rough Draft of Question/Problem and Hypothesis* due.

December 16th (Friday) for B1 & B2: *Final Background Research* due.

January 5th/6th (Thu/Fri) 2012: *Rough Draft: Materials List, Defined Variables, and Controlled Experimental Procedures* due.

January 27th (Friday): *Experiment*: Should be done or near completion

February 1st (Wednesday): *Data and Results Rough Draft* due.

February 8th (Wednesday): *Conclusion Rough Draft* due.

February 15th (Wednesday): *Final Science Fair Report*: The entire written portion of the Science Fair Project with a cover page and sources cited (internet addresses, bibliography, etc.).

February 29th (Wednesday): Science Fair Board due and day of Science Fair!