

August 25, 2017

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, HISTORY, 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.

The completed projects will be judged at St. Joseph Catholic School. Winners from the Science division may go on to compete in the Diocesan and/or Regional Science Fair. *NOTE: It is required of each student to select the Science category at least one time in 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade.*

**The following time schedule will be followed:**

**Area Choice** due September 1 (Friday)

**Title and Purpose (with partial bibliography)** due September 15 (Friday)

**Research Outline** due October 16 (Monday)

**Research Paper, including a complete bibliography,** due November 17 (Friday)

**Completed Backboard** due December 4<sup>th</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> (on assigned day)

**Oral presentations** due January 4<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>

**Completed Project—including the paper, bibliography, and backboard—**due January 11<sup>th</sup> (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, Mrs. Cristin Lansang, Mrs. Lizette Woodward, Miss Mary Catherine Serfilippi, Mrs. Andrea Wilson, and Mrs. Anne Clement

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

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(detach and return)

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Area Choice (check one)

\_\_\_\_\_ Fine Arts

\_\_\_\_\_ Social Studies

\_\_\_\_\_ Science (Note: EXPERIMENT REQUIRED)

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**THIS FORM IS DUE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>**

## FINE ARTS FAIR

Fine Arts projects focus on a visual art created primarily for aesthetics or beauty; the projects must contain elements that are both research-based and creative. Please be advised, however, that Fine Arts topics are to be distinguished from Practical or Applied Arts topics. Practical or Applied Art is an art or craft that serves ordinary, utilitarian, or material needs, and examples include woodworking, graphic design, needlework, interior design, fashion design, computer animation, etc. Topics chosen that focus on the Practical or Applied Arts will be denied. Fine Arts categories will include the following:

1. **Art Medium** – Students select a medium (watercolor, oil, tempera, clay, etc.) and research its history, what it is made from, advantages/ disadvantages, and the process of creating a work of art using that medium. Research should also include at least two artists who worked with that medium and compare/contrast how they used it and give examples of their work.
2. **Art Form**—Students select an art form (painting, printmaking, photography, ceramics, sculpture, etc.) and research its history, the process of creating a work of art using that form, and its purpose. Research should also include at least two artists who worked with that art form and compare/contrast how they used it and give examples of their work.
3. **Subject Matter**—Students choose a subject found in artwork (such as religion, still life, portraiture, etc.) 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.
4. **Style**—Students pick a style in the history of art, (such as impressionism, cubism, baroque, etc.) 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.

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

## HISTORY FAIR

Research MUST be related to the theme designated by the National History Association for 2017-18. This year's theme is "**Conflict and Compromise in History.**" The intentional selection of the theme provides an opportunity for students to push past the old-fashioned view of history as mere facts and dates and drill down into historical content to develop

perspective and understanding. The theme provides a focused way to increase students' historical understanding by developing a lens to read history, an organizational structure that helps students place information in the correct context, and finally, the ability to see connections over time.

The topics chosen by students must be **related to the theme**, keeping in mind both "Conflict and Compromise" 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](http://www.nhd.org). Specifics about the theme, including sample project ideas, can be found at [www.nhd.org/themebook.htm](http://www.nhd.org/themebook.htm). 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

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

\*\* Projects involving human subjects (excluding survey-based testing), vertebrate animals, rDNA, pathogenic or potentially pathogenic agents, controlled substances, and human or animal tissue are **NOT allowed**. If students elect to do a survey-based science project, a minimum of 100 people should be surveyed. Individual surveys should be completed along with the participant's waiver and included in your science fair binder.

Backboards: mandatory backboard

**NOTE: It is required of each student to select the Science category at least one time in 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade.**

## Grade Level Requirements

6 <sup>th</sup>	45-50 note cards and research outline	Paper: 2-3 pages	3 resources
7 <sup>th</sup>	60-65 notecards Completion of online research outline	Paper: 4 pages	4 resources
8 <sup>th</sup>	60-65 notecards Completion of online research outline	Paper: 4 pages	4 resources

- **RESOURCES:** Students may research information provided in books, periodicals, and on the internet. Internet resources must be chosen wisely; any internet resource selected **MUST** be a documented and/or copyrighted valid source. *Wikipedia* is **NOT** a resource option for students to use.
- Bibliography information will be provided to each student by Mrs. Clement.
- Plagiarism will result in an automatic failing grade; correctly formatted citations will be addressed in all English classes.